



First Minister opens new training centre.  
See page 5.

# Bridgend & Porthcawl

# GEM



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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 2012



## Llantwit Major

**Christmas Limelight!**  
Pages 17-20

## A festive look at Holton Road, Barry

Pages 25-28



## Pyle burglary: police issue public appeal

POLICE in Bridgend are appealing for information, following a burglary on Ffordd-y-Mynach, Pyle, between 1am-9am on Wednesday, November 14, when intruders entered a property via an insecure rear door and stole a Toshiba laptop.

A spokeswoman said: "Officers wish to speak to anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious behaviour in

the area that night, or anyone who may have further information regarding the incident.

"Residents are reminded to always secure their premises by locking windows and doors in order to prevent opportunistic crime."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Bridgend CID on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## SUPER-HEROES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED!



Picture by MALCOLM NUGENT.

Pupils at Porthcawl Comprehensive dressed in fancy dress for Children in Need day and the above group the 'Head Team' clearly chose a 'Superhero' theme (although the presence of The Joker is a bit dubious!). For full details of the day, turn to pages 6 and 7.

## Accolade for young actor Joe

BRIDGEND Youth Theatre's Joe Wiltshire-Smith has won a top acting accolade award.

The 19-year-old from Porthcawl was given the plaudit as part of the recent 'It's My Shout' 10th Anniversary Premiere and Awards evening at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Joe received the award for best lead actor for his role in *Walk or Fly*, one of two Bridgend county borough-based short films that were featured as part of the premiere and awards evening.

The county borough's successes on the night were not restricted to Joe; Bridgend College student Greg Sage won the 'one to watch' award for his performance in *The Mob*, while former Bridgend Youth Theatre member and *It's My Shout* participant, Aneurin Barnard, was presented with the award for outstanding achievement.

*Walk or Fly* and *The Mob* were both created by young people from Bridgend county borough as part of the *It's My Shout* film training scheme, which engages young filmmakers and actors in creative activities that can inspire and grow confidence.

This includes producing six films every summer alongside a variety

of industry professionals, as part of a national summer television training scheme.

Created as part of the Arts Connect partnership, *Walk or Fly* is a 'sweet coming-of-age story featuring a young boy who has hidden his grief after his father's death behind a superhero mask'.

*The Mob* was produced by students from Bridgend College and discusses the expectations of young people today, set against the backdrop of the 2011 London riots.

This year's six short films are currently being broadcast at 11.20pm every Thursday on BBC 2 Wales, culminating with a 30-minute celebratory documentary looking back over the past 10 years of *It's My Shout*, being shown on Thursday, December 20.

Both Bridgend-based short films have already been broadcast, but can still be watched on BBC iPlayer until December 20.

To get involved with next year's films, *It's My Shout* will be launching its call for scripts at the end of December. See the 'get involved' section at: [www.itsmyshout.co.uk](http://www.itsmyshout.co.uk) for what roles are available.

## 'FOLLOW MY LEAD!'



Porthcawl's Joe Wiltshire-Smith (second right) with award presenters; Gwawr Lloyd, content commissioner for S4C; Justin Davies from Sky 1's *Stella*; and Eryl Phillips, Director of Rondo Media.

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# Situation in Middle East and North Africa is real cause for concern

**AS I write, reports are coming in of missile attacks between Gaza and Israel.**

The world waits to see if ground forces will follow the Israeli destruction of the meagre air defence capability of the Hamas government in Gaza.

As one of Westminster's delegates to the NATO Parliamentary assembly, I have followed the changes across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in some detail.

As a member of the Defence and Security Committee of NATO, and the Defence Select Committee in Westminster, I have the opportunity to look at the strategic shifts in power and instability from two perspectives.

Twenty eight countries are members of NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Only two of those 28 have not faced drastic cuts to its defence spending and capability. At a time of great economic, political, and social upheaval, the collective defence of the 28 membership is critical but vulnerable.

The dramatic political events and changes across the MENA region are often seen at the fall of regimes and the rise of new political power groups. The economic drivers of much of the change have been overlooked.

The failure of regimes to tackle youth unemployment, the lack of change and improvement in the lives of ordinary people and a desire for greater freedom of expression underpinned much of the revolutionary movements across countries which differed economically, socially and ethnically.

The MENA holds 60 per cent of accessible oil reserves, is a transit region for global shipping and illegal migration and people trafficking. Each of the countries in the region has different problems, opportunities and potential for new relationships with neighbours and NATO.

Algeria and Morocco saw popular unrest but no regime change. Morocco's monarchy took a liberal path, announcing a new constitution, greater judicial independence, an elected Parliament and a Prime Minister nominated by the majority party. The new constitution enshrined equality between men and women with a quota of 15 per cent (up from 9 per cent) of seats for women.

Algeria's uprising resulted from unemployment, corruption, poor social and housing services and rising food prices. Algerians remembered their bloody civil war, with up to 200,000 lives lost.

Oil revenue was used to reduce food prices, a

## WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

**Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.**



security clamp down and elections helped re-establish stability. Female representation in the lower House increased from eight per cent to 31 per cent.

Prior to its revolution, Tunisia was seen as stable with a growing economy. It also suffered from 25 per cent youth unemployment, corruption, nepotism and poverty. The first democratic election brought the Islamic Ennahda party into coalition with two centre-left secular parties.

A new constitution is due for ratification in 2013.

Tunisia has a strong economy, religious homogeneity (98 per cent Sunni), strong trades unions, good education, vibrant civil society and women's rights well established.

Its problems include decreased tourism, increased presence of Salfi puritanical Muslim preachers and instability in neighbouring Libya.

The revolution in Libya brought NATO mission 'Unified Protector' implementing a UN mandate to establish a no-fly zone and protect the civilian population.

Libya's economy was rich thanks to its oil and gas supplies. Education and housing were good but youth unemployment, at 65 per cent, coupled with rampant corruption and oppression, led to general dissatisfaction.

Since the end of the war, Prime Minister el-Keeb has admitted his government is not working well. Outside of the 140 clans, security is poor, armed militia groups, drug and people trafficking are increasing. Instability is spilling south in the Sahel, which is seeing an increase in Al-Qaeda affiliated groups.

The draft constitution allowed for 40 seats for women but only 33 were elected to the 200-seat congress. The role of Islam in the newly-emerging state has yet to be decided.

Unemployment for the under 30s was at 90 per cent in Egypt with 40 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. High food prices, economic inactivity, corruption, especially within

President Mubarak's family, had been generating discontent for months.

It was no surprise when the people took to the streets. The surprise was the decision of the army not to back Mubarak.

The new President comes from the Muslim Brotherhood. The second largest group in the Assembly is the politically inexperienced Salafi Al-Nour party with 24 per cent of the seats. Despite the brave role played by women during the revolution, only eight seats in the 480-member lower house are held by women.

This is one of the lowest representations by women in the world, for a country with a high level of university educated women.

Add into this mix the terror in Syria. The Assad regime, aided by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, attacks on civilians seeking greater freedom, is also creating instability in Lebanon, creating an arc of violence and insecurity.

The region has politically inexperienced leadership. Socio-economic problems, compounded by political instability and sectarian conflict, have hindered progress and created a breeding ground for terrorist groups.

NATO learned a great deal from the Arab Spring. It highlighted intelligence gaps and demonstrated weaknesses within the alliance in capability and cooperation.

It also showed the importance of our near neighbours to our own peace and security. NATO now has a responsibility to forge new relationships, build alliances and share expertise.

The poor image of NATO within the region needs to be addressed, possibly through partnering UN and EU initiatives.

If the Gaza/Israel conflict is not to escalate into a land-based war, the new Prime Minister of Egypt must be supported to find a peace agreement that will avoid plunging the region into a new conflict, blocking progress and allowing sectarian, fundamentalist and terrorist organisations room to grow.

The NATO PA elected a new President last week; Hugh Bailey MP for York. He has a difficult two years ahead of him and we all need him to succeed.

## AM hails new scheme to help homebuyers

**FIRST-TIME homebuyers in the Ogmore constituency will be given support to get on the housing ladder, by a new Welsh Government scheme.**

Janice Gregory AM has welcomed the mortgage guarantee scheme which is due to be rolled out in the spring of 2013.

Available to all buyers in areas of housing pressure and first time buyers across Wales, it will support the purchase of up to 3,000 new build homes up to the value of £250,000.

Rather than funding being made directly available to buyers, the Welsh Government and house builders will act as

guarantors, so that buyers can secure high loan to value mortgages that would not otherwise be available to them. Buyers will contribute a five per cent deposit.

The AM said: "I'm delighted that first-time homebuyers are to receive this additional support at a time when it is particularly difficult to get on the housing ladder."

"The mortgage guarantee scheme will also give a boost to the construction industry; creating jobs and stimulating the local economy."

"Details of the scheme are being worked out, but I am sure that it will be a hit with hard pressed first-time buyers."

## Enjoy Bryngarw's best Victorian Christmas yet!

**THE festive season is approaching and Bryngarw House and Country Park in Brynmenyn, Bridgend, will be hosting a Christmas-themed weekend with a Victorian twist on December 15-16, between 11am-5pm.**

"A Victorian Christmas" will be packed with even more fun festivities this year, with a Christmas market featuring a variety of locally produced foods and crafts along with a range of fun activities and stalls.

The star of the show at this year's A Victorian Christmas will be Father Christmas, who is looking forward to meeting all the boys and girls in his special Bryngarw grotto.

A traditional evening of carol singing is hosted on the Bryngarw

House lawn at 7.30pm on Sunday, December 16. People can enjoy a complimentary mince pie and glass of mulled wine as the brass band takes them through all the festive favourites.

Admission and car parking for the event are free all weekend but charges for rides, stalls, food and drink are applicable.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Due to this being an outdoor event it is weather dependent, therefore Bridgend County Borough Council advises people to contact Bryngarw House on 01656 729009 prior to starting their journey.

For further details on the events taking place at Bryngarw House and Country Park, visit [www.bryngarwhouse.co.uk](http://www.bryngarwhouse.co.uk).

### HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 29)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.*

*For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
22 Thur	00.47	8.0	13.21	8.2
23 Fri	01.52	8.1	14.23	8.3
24 Sat	02.58	8.3	15.21	8.5
25 Sun	03.53	8.6	16.18	8.8
26 Mon	04.41	8.8	17.01	9.0
27 Tues	05.22	9.2	17.41	9.3
28 Wed	05.59	9.4	18.18	9.3
29 Thur	06.34	9.5	18.54	9.4

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.*

## Crime prevention event in Bridgend

**PCSOs Richard Thomas and Lisa Moore will be holding a Christmas crime prevention table at various locations in Bridgend Town Centre - they will be distributing literature relating to crime prevention advice over the festive period.**

They will be at: Wilkinson's from 1pm-3pm on November 26; the bus station from 11am-1pm on November 29; Rhiw Shopping Centre from 1pm-3pm on Monday, December 10 and Brackla Street Shopping Centre from 11am-1pm on December 13.

## YouTube helps fundraisers

**THE Llangynwyd Community Association recently made a YouTube video to publicise their fundraising to refurbish St Stephens as the village hall.**

We need a substantial amount of money to do this and therefore the committee, with the help of Cor Meibion Maesteg, Tony

Kingsbury and Tal Harries, performed a musical request, asking for £1 to help us get a new roof.

Committee members dressed as decorators pretended to paint etc and great fun was had by all.

We really need the help of as many people as possible to view the video and perhaps make a donation.

**M Thomas, Bridgend.**

## Green light for garden pilot

**A NEW garden waste collection pilot for Bridgend county borough has been given the green light by Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet members.**

As well as meeting a growing demand from householders, the trial service is aimed at reducing the amount of green waste being sent to landfill and meeting challenging targets for recycling and composting.

Currently, residents can recycle green waste such as grass and garden clippings through home composting at the borough's four household recycling sites, or by buying disposable green waste bags.

Cabinet agreed to introduce a trial collection service after hearing it could improve recycling/composting performance by up to six per cent. Starting in April 2013, it will operate during the main growing season until

November.

Householders who want to take part will be supplied with two reusable hessian bags for their green waste, which will be collected from the kerbside fortnightly.

The proposed charge for the service is £27 per household per annum. Pensioners will pay a discounted rate of £23. Only those households wishing to make use of the service would be charged.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "This will be a big improvement to our current services. Not only will it help householders who wish to take part, it will mean their green waste gets disposed of in a more sustainable way."

"We don't want to add to bills across the board, so only those householders who opt to take part will be charged a modest fee for the service."

## New action plan to combat domestic abuse in borough

**AN action plan aimed at tackling domestic abuse in Bridgend county borough, where there has been more than 10,000 incidents reported to the police over the past three years, has been endorsed by BCBC cabinet members.**

There has been consistent patterns linked to areas and specific events, so the 2012-14 Domestic Abuse Strategic Action Plan has been developed by the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership (CSP), working with public, private and voluntary sector bodies represented on its Domestic Abuse Strategy Group.

It sets out the partnership's priorities on the issue, which include seeking a greater community response to domestic violence in the future. The plan also aims to give more confidence to victims to come forward and seek support.

Coun Mel Nott,

Leader of BCBC, said: "As chair of the Bridgend CSP I know the terrible cost of domestic abuse to the victim and their family, especially children."

"This is a hateful crime, and we must speak out with one voice on this and make it clear that as a council and a community we will not tolerate the abuse of a woman or a man by their partner."

"Together we have been very successful in reducing overall crime levels in the county borough, but we know domestic abuse continues to feature highly in violent crime."

"I'm pleased that the aim of the strategy is to build community resilience to domestic abuse, and to recognise and respond to it effectively when we see it. We will also focus on providing more quality, joined up services that are citizen-centred so that people feel able to safely speak up, whether they are the victim or simply have concerns."



## Cadets visit aviation firms for tours of their facilities



Staff and cadets at Tes Aviation.

THE Kenfig Hill Squadron ATC recently undertook two visits, along with other Squadrons, to British Airways Avionic Engineering and Tes Aviation in Bridgend – arranged by Sgt Gould.

While at BA Avionic, the cadets were shown around the facility, which has a highly skilled workforce that maintains a broad range of electrical and mechanical components.

Instructor Cadet Flight Sergeant Cooper presented Jerry Devine, training co-ordinator, with a plaque from Kenfig Hill Squadron in recognition of their association.

The cadets moved on to Tes Aviation, which is an independent aircraft engine maintenance facility, to be given a tour. Tes Aviation has been supporting Kenfig Hill Squadron with regards to their renovation project for their gate guardian, which is a Hawker Hunter F1 Aircraft.

While on the visit, two plaques were presented by Cadet Corporal Townsend and Cadet Sergeant Aston to Dave Carr to commemorate the visit, and Derek McHarg for the support they have shown to the Squadron in the Hunter project.

LINDSAY THOMAS

Secretary, civilian committee

## Backing for residents' bid for new village centre

SHADOW Welsh regeneration minister Byron Davies is backing Nantymoel residents fighting for a community centre in the village.

Mr Davies was due to meet members of the Friends of the Berwyn Centre this week and has received an update about their decision.

He said: "I understand that they have decided to abandon the fight to try and save the Berwyn Centre and instead, to concentrate on replacing it with a purpose-built centre which will be easier to manage and maintain."

"As someone who is keen to protect the individualism of communities, I am sad that the Berwyn Centre will be demolished."

"The important thing is that BCBC honours its pledge to put up £200,000 towards the cost of a new centre which could be built on the same site if that is deemed suitable."

Mr Davies said: "The community must now come forward with its ideas about what the new centre should provide."

"There is a strong argument about having a theatre once again in Nantymoel and that is something that will have to be considered."

"In some ways, this is an exciting time if residents seize the opportunity being offered."

"There is still a long way to go in getting funding from other sources to match fund the council's and nobody should underestimate the work that will be needed to put these bids in."

Mr Davies added: "I know that there is a very strong community spirit in the valley and that people will work together to bring this about."

"I will give any support that I can to them and I hope to talk to the 'Friends' as soon as possible."

## YOUNG BRIDGEND AUTHOR PUBLISHES SECOND BOOK

A YOUNG writer from Bridgend has just published her first novel, and is already close to publishing her third venture into literature.

Sarah Callaway (16) began writing 'Dare to Dream' at the age of 12. It is about a girl who writes her way to fame and fortune – but all is not what it seems. It is available on Amazon, along with a previous work: 'Poems from an Underdog' and soon, 'Prose from a Controversial Teen'.

Sarah contacted The GEM about her work, and said: "I hope to

become a teacher in the future, although writing will always be close to my heart."

"The books are available for a low price as I hope to share my work with as many people as possible. It would mean the world to me if more people checked it out."

"I originally began writing because, as a child, I loved to write stories and create fantasy worlds."

"As I entered my teenage years, I went through relationships, break-ups and dramas with friends, so writing was a way of letting out my feelings."

"I believe that writing saved me from the upset

and pain I would have dwelt on if I couldn't have let out my feelings with writing poetry, prose and fiction. I even wrote a few chapters of a self help book for teenagers once using my own experiences."

"My novel originally started out as just one scene using some characters based heavily on my friends and a dream in my mind."

"My friends loved the base of a story I'd written so I decided to continue and write on to 29 chapters. The happy story of my own personal dreams soon evaporated though, as I realised I quite enjoyed writing tragedy-style fiction. I morphed the ending to be sad yet cathartic."

"I was 15 when I contacted a number of authors and companies and asked anyone I thought that would know about publishing. I felt I was ready to try to get my work out to the world and found Amazon to be the easiest place to go."

"I self-published both my poetry book and novel for Kindle, designing the covers myself (Sarah also stars on the cover of *Dare to Dream*). I am interested in both photography and modelling so it's also a dream of mine to have designed them myself."

"Soon, I hope to self-publish a prose book for Kindle, then eventually, publish all of my Kindle editions in paperbacks."

Dare to Dream and Poems from an Underdog are both

available to purchase on Amazon. Type both titles in to the search bar on the website to find them.

Leigh Gruffydd Sanders



Sarah Callaway's *Dare to Dream* is out now on Amazon. Sarah designed and modelled for the cover herself.

## 'If in doubt, keep them out' RESIDENTS WARNED

BRIDGEND Community Safety Partnership recently took to the streets of Porthcawl, to raise awareness of bogus callers and 'cold calling'.

South Wales Police, Trading Standards, and volunteers visited houses to spread the message: "If in doubt about a caller at your door, keep them out!"

Leaflets were distributed as part of the operation and the team gave out crime prevention advice about home security including door chains, window locks and security lighting.

Sergeant Angela Bennett said: "It is important that people feel safe in the area where they live and work, and we want to help feel safer. During

these visits we told people what to look out for and how they can make their homes more secure to protect their property."

"Bogus callers take advantage of insecure premises and target vulnerable residents. The police are working tirelessly to catch these criminals and we wanted to raise awareness of how people can contact us if they need to."

Ellis Roberts, from Trading Standards, said: "No Cold Calling Zones in the Porthcawl area are being looked at and this was a good opportunity to work with the police and gauge the views of residents."

For further information about bogus callers or crime prevention advice, contact Sergeant Angela Bennett in the Bridgend Community Safety team on 01656 679542.

## Nash Point Lighthouse is all white again!



ABOVE: Staff from Ian Williams Properties who painted the lighthouse.

AN iconic local landmark has been given a splash of new life thanks to a team of specialist painters.

Nash Point Lighthouse has been spruced up by leading property services company Ian Williams.

The 19th century lighthouse was the last manned lighthouse in Wales, until August 1998, when the lighthouse keepers left.

Now the lighthouse, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel, is open to the public.

Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) which manages 69 lighthouses across the UK, appointed Ian Williams to complete the work.

The £70,000 project saw Ian Williams' operatives repaint the lighthouse over an eight-week period, using 1,800 litres of paint.

Steve Lenahan, business manager at Ian Williams, said roped

access was needed to carry out the work. At its highest point, the lighthouse stands at 37 metres and has two towers.

He added: "The team which worked on Nash Point lighthouse has specialist knowledge and experience of working on unique projects like this."

"We appreciate the local importance of the tower and within our team we have experience of working on lighthouses and listed properties."

"We have painted

other lighthouses, including The Needles off the Isle of Wight and Smeatons Tower at Plymouth."

Nash Point Lighthouse was designed by James Walker, the engineer-in-chief to Trinity House, in 1832 to mark the sandbanks off the point at the entrance to the Bristol Channel.

The decision to build it followed a public outcry after the passenger steamer, Frolic, was wrecked with heavy loss of life in 1830.

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# SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

**Charity concert**  
**BRIDGEND and District Visual Impairment Society** has organised its fifth annual concert at Brackla Tabernacle Chapel for November 29 at 7pm.

A harpist duo of year-11 pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, Lwmi Foster-Davies and Niamh Reese will be greeting everyone before the concert, which starts at 7pm.

There is also The Heavenly Ladies choral group from Bethlehem Life Centre, Cefn Cribwr, and Tremains Junior School Choir, with music by a junior brass band ensemble formed from nine students at Bridgend secondary schools.

Tickets are £5 and all money raised goes to a good cause. They can be obtained from John or Julie on 01656 771398 or 01656 766240. Everyone is welcome.

## Nysawdre Community Centre

**ON Friday, November 30, entertainment will be provided by the Ogmere Valley Male Choir at 7pm, (tickets will be £5).**

In December, the choir has been invited to lead the hymn singing at the wedding of Iain Hall and Kate Harding in St Mary Magdalen Church, Mawdlam.

The choir rehearses at the Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmere Vale on Thursday evenings between 7pm-9pm; visitors and new members welcome.

## Festive date

**BRACKLA Community Centre** will be hosting the Christmas concert organised by the Brackla Community Chorus, a mixed voice choir on November 30 at 7pm. The guest artists will be an ensemble from Archbishop McGrath Roman Catholic School.

Brackla Community Chorus took part in the concert to raise money

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



for Velindre Hospital chemotherapy department and I was pleased to note that the centre was full.

Brackla Community Chorus rehearses at the centre on Wednesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm and new members will be welcome.

**Pupils' awards**  
**T Y N Y R H E O L Primary School head, Martin Griffiths, congratulated the following pupils who this term have won a book presented by the Friends of the school to the most improved reader in the class during the term:**

Class 1: Megan Grabham received Disney's *Ultimate Family Treasury* classic stories for all the family.

Class 2: Zack Steele - *Children's Encyclopedia*.

Class 3: Bailey Dowling - *Children's Internet Illustrated Encyclopedia*.

**Aberkenfig WI**  
**EUNICE WILLIAMS, opened the meeting on November 14 when members sang 'Happy Birthday' to Dorothy Thomas.**

The shopping trip to Marks and Spencer's and lunch afterwards was discussed. The members would have enjoyed it more if the food had arrived on time - otherwise they agreed it was a good day out.

Eunice introduced the speaker for the day, Christine Thomas, a decorative artist from Porthcawl, who has designed and decorated rooms in many houses in Glamorgan, including the bathroom in a house Tom Jones owned.

Christine demonstrated how to make jewellery with a soldering iron.

Gillian Williams gave

a vote of thanks.

The winner of the competition for an article beginning with the letter 'R' was Gillian, and the winner of the raffle Dilys Mitchell.

The any other business included information about the Wesley Methodist Church Christmas tree festival November 24, which includes the lighting of the Christmas trees.

The church choir will be singing carols and there will be stalls and refreshments.

The next meeting will be on December 12, which will be the Christmas party.

Visitors and new members are sure of a warm welcome at Aberkenfig WI who have their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Welfare Hall, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig.

Further details can be obtained from the secretary, Mrs Pat Lewis, on 01656 721384, or at [www.cobwebs.com](http://www.cobwebs.com).

## Tondu

### Primary School

**THE first event in the primary schools' cross country competition for children from years 3-6 is on November 24 at Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen.**

Miss Jones will be there at 9.40am to register the children taking part. The race is open to any child who would like to run a short course with pupils from other schools. Trainers, shorts, t-shirt, a water bottle and a track suit will be needed.

The first race will be at 10am and it is all over by 11am.

Children will be taught musical instruments, on Tuesdays (violin) and Thursdays (brass instruments).

## Pencoed Silver Band

**THE band will be playing Christmas music at Seasons on Brynmynyn Industrial Estate around mid-day on November 24-25.**

Formed over 100 years ago, the band encourages youngsters of all ages to play, and will loan instruments to them until they obtain their own individual instrument.

It rehearses in Heol-y-Cyw Welfare Hall on Monday's Heol-y-Cyw rugby club on Thursdays are between 7pm and 9pm.

## Festive fair

**THE congregation of Nazareth Chapel, Brynceithin, will be holding a Christmas fair on Saturday, November 24, between 12 noon and 2pm. They will have for sale a large variety of handmade Christmas crafts and other stalls with tombola, refreshments.**

**Carers' group**  
**BRIDGEND Carers' Centre** is a charity located in 87, Park Street, Bridgend, CF31 4AZ (telephone 01656 658479).

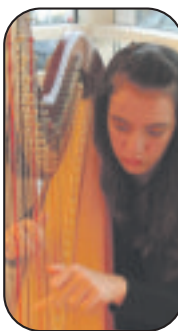
Today (November 22) Katie Thomas, an advisor from Macmillan Welfare Rights, will be available between 9.30am and 1.30pm to inform carers of benefits they may be eligible for.

On November 23 between 10.30am and 12.30pm there is a new carers' information course.

## Christmas fair

**ON Saturday, December 1, at Brackla Tabernacle chapel, Whitethorn Drive, between 12 noon and 5pm, there will be a craft and gift market, with items suitable for Christmas presents.**

The money raised



Lowri Foster-Davies



Niamh Reese

will be used to help the charity Bridgend Food Bank, members of the chapel who have financial difficulties, and support youth programmes organised by the chapel.

**Choir concert**  
**FOLLOWING a successful tour in Holland Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley ladies choir) returned to perform in the Royal British Legion concert in Maesteg Town Hall.**

The artists were the Briton Ferry Silver Band; Sian Rushworth, harpist; duetists Bethan and Meinir; and Cor Merched.

The choir sang four items: 'The Lord is my Shepherd', 'Over the Rainbow', 'Tydi ar Rhoddaist' and the World War II Requiem.

The last item was written and composed in Holland but it has such touching English words, the Dutch choir sent it over for the choir to learn and it has become a great favourite and appropriate for Remembrance Sunday.

# Bridgend charity set to spawn 10 new businesses

**A BRIDGEND charity and pioneering new enterprising centre have joined forces to help budding entrepreneurs make their business dreams a reality.**

More than 10 aspiring business bosses will have the chance to spend at least a year operating from a unique new 'start-up' environment known as the Welsh Innovation Centre for Enterprise (ICE).

The places will be funded by the Fairwood Trust to support any individual based in south Wales with the talent, potential and ambition to develop and grow a business, and in turn provide wider benefits to their community.

Originally launched using funds from Training Services Wales (TSW Ltd), an independent training organisation based at Aberkenfig, The Fairwood Trust became a stand-alone charity after TSW Ltd founder Charles Middleton retired from his post as CEO in 2008.

Now director at the Fairwood Trust, Mr Middleton said: "It is the learning that comes with any mentoring process that is really important to the Trust - and the goal ultimately is to create more jobs, have more people working and make more money for the economy of Wales."

"To have had the support, guidance and mentorship that Welsh ICE provides would have been heaven when I first started in business 40 years ago."

As such, Fairwood Trust has entered an agreement with Welsh ICE, which is based in Caerphilly, to fund 10 new enterprises based at Welsh ICE with a bursary worth £3,000 to each one. Three have

signed up so far.

Family support service firm Smooth Starts, student exchange outlet Recyclabook and textiles company Cup of Daisies have already moved into Welsh ICE thanks to the Fairwood Trust funding.

Oana Balan came up with the idea for Cup of Daisies when she started making silk scarves for charity whilst studying costume design at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Now she sells them in a Cardiff boutique and spends two or three days a week at ICE, where she is supported in creating a business plan and identifying new markets.

She said: "To have people around you that appreciate and believe in your project is just amazing, they have already decided you are going to make it and that goes a long way when you are working alone. It's such an inspiring place to be."

Welsh ICE's objective is to create a hotbed of growing firms and, in turn, high-quality jobs for South Wales by supporting entrepreneurs both on-site and virtual-

ly from its base in Caerphilly.

Centre director Gareth Iwan Jones said: "The Fairwood Trust enterprise bursary allows those with a business idea to get out of their back bedroom and into an environment with others that can help them. We are looking for a wide range of entrepreneurs to apply, especially those with links to the wider community."

Those providing mentoring for new entrepreneurs at ICE also include RBS and Lloyds TSB banks, leading accountancy firm, Broomfield & Alexander, IT firm Solvix, patent experts at Wynne-Jones IP and insurance firm Thomas Carroll Group.

ICE has space for up to 150 businesses and provides an on-site restaurant, day nursery and hotel.

Social spaces, equipped for music and games, are also provided to encourage entrepreneurs to mix and share ideas.

For information on how to apply visit [www.welshice.org/awar](http://www.welshice.org/awar) ds.

# The heat is on...

**WE were very relieved when our November meeting, Glass Blowing in the hall, was over!**

We were beginning to dream of sprinklers going off or of the Fire Brigade turning up, but all the worry was unnecessary. It was a really good afternoon with some lovely finished products.

Our autumn fayre on October 20 was a big success. Many grateful thanks to Sian at Bloomin' Stylish, Dave from Verlands Stores and Richard from the butcher's shop for donations to the raffle.

Also, a big thank you to all of our members

## PENCOED WI NEWS

who donated prizes and bric-a-brac, baked, helped on the stalls, provided the teas and to everyone who turned up to spend some money.

We were very pleased to be able to present a cheque for £500 to Wales Air Ambulance.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas party. On behalf of Pencoed WI, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2013.

For further information on our WI, telephone Val on 01656862181 or Pat on 01656862089.

# Who wants to build what and where in the county borough

Notemachin - **GH Griffiths and Son Petrostore, Cowbridge Road, Bridgend** - Fibreglass surround to ATM with cash sign above.

Mrs Nadine Manfred - **42 Penybont Road, Pencoed** - New fascia sign and window graphics. Mr E P Williams - **Tynwydd Farmhouse, Spion Kop, Ogmere Vale** - Crown reduce one tree by 30 per cent and remove a few lower limbs ((1998) BCBC No.08 modified).

Paddle Limited - **Land rear of Salisbury Road, Maesteg** - Erect five two-and-a-half storey four-bed houses, seven two-storey four-bed house.

Mrs S Dando - **4 Rest Bay Close, Porthcawl** - Construction of sun-

lounge, granny annexe and garage. Mr P Flower - **20 Swn yr Afon, Kenfig Hill** - Erection of 1.8m fence on land to rear.

Leckwith Properties Ltd - **Dunraven Hotel, 3 Blackmill Road, Brynceithin** - Change of use from public house to six flats. Mrs H Thomson - **8 Glan y Parc, Bridgend** - Change of use of lower ground floor of property into a childrens' day nursery with internal alterations.

Miss S Blake - **87 Fulmar Road, Porthcawl** - Extension to front dormer creating en-suite onto master bedroom.

Mr Peter Williams - **78 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** - New orangery and garage conversion.

Mr and Mrs Baker - **1 Maes Llan, Kenfig Hill** - Orangery to rear of property.

Mr R Morgan - **30 The Chase, Brackla** - Single storey extension to rear.

Mr A Williams - **37 Salisbury Road, Maesteg** - Detached garage to rear garden.

Mr Dave Edmunds - **7 Greenwood Close, Litchard** - Single storey garage/cloakroom extension.

Notemachin - **GH Griffiths and Son, Petrostore, Cowbridge Road** - Retention of installed ATM.

Mr J Evans - **3 Meadow View, Blackmill** - Construct a new detached garage and a new detached workshop.

H D Limited - **Cae Court, 12 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend** - Change of use from nursing home (C2) to hotel (C1).

Mr S Middleton - **85 High Street, Laleston** - First floor side extension.

South Wales Land Development Ltd - **Land at Ty Draw Farm, Pyle** - Full application; 94 dwellings associated access, open space etc, outline B1 employment use of the remainder of site (2.23HA).

Pori Natur a Threfadaeth Ltd - **Land within Coity Wallia Common, Bridgend** - Construct five ponds with smaller ponds around each for biodiversity benefit.

Mrs N De Celis Probert - **20**

**Rhodfa Mes, Broadlands** - Demolish sun lounge and rebuild new enlarged sun lounge at rear. Persimmon Homes Ltd East - **Parc Derwen, land parcel R8, Bridgend** - Reserved matters for 38 new dwellings.

Persimmon Homes Ltd East - **Parc Derwen, land parcel R23/24, Bridgend** - Reserved matters for 41 new dwellings.

Persimmon Homes Ltd East - **Parc Derwen, land parcel R14, Bridgend** - Reserved matters for four new dwellings.

Persimmon Homes Ltd East - **Parc Derwen, land parcels R6/R7, Bridgend** - Reserved matters for 82 new dwellings.

Persimmon Homes Ltd East - **Parc Derwen, land parcel R9,**

**Bridgend** - Reserved matters for 54 new dwellings.

Dainton Group Services Ltd - **Coity Road Sidings, Coity Road, Bridgend** - Change of use to B1/B8, mainly containerised storage.

Mr Raymond Jones - **15 Silurian Way, Kenfig Hill** - Retention of boundary fence including amendment to height.

Miss T Carroll - **Land east of Bridge Stables, Pencoed** - Use of land for stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 1 no. gypsy pitch, handstanding.

Mr and Mrs John Hodges - **Redrofs, Brynecwyllys Avenue, Porthcawl** - Alterations and extension to dwelling to provide increased accommodation.



# First Minister opens new training centre



**ABOVE:**  
Andrew Whitcombe makes the opening address.

**FIRST** Minister Carwyn Jones has officially opened the new premises of a Bridgend project that provides apprentices and trains people with the skills they need to make it in industry.

Bridgend College's Engage Training provides qualifications and commercial training to businesses such as Ford and Tata Steel.

The First Minister was welcomed to Engage Training's new premises at Morian House on the Bridgend Industrial Estate by college principal Mark Jones and Andrew Whitcombe, director of skills and business development.

He unveiled a plaque



*The First Minister officially opens the training centre.*

**RIGHT:** Carwyn Jones with Mark Jones, the principal of Bridgend College. (Photographs by Frank Shipton email – frankshipton@mac.com)

before touring the facility and meeting staff.

He said: "The Welsh Government's absolute priority in these tough times is to create jobs and enable growth. I am confident that this new centre will help us to deliver this, by bringing together the college and local employers.

"Making sure people have the right skills that industry need is vital. That is why we are com-



mitted to creating more apprentice opportunities to allow people to realise their ambitions.

"Facilities like this mean that local employers have ready access to learning. The centre offers a variety of training opportunities, from distance learning to short courses for employers. I am delight-

ed to be here to mark the official opening, as I am sure that this facility will be a great success and help many people improve their skills."

The Welsh Government recently announced a further £5 million of funding for apprenticeship places for newly recruited young people aged 16-24.

# WI concert raises cash for Stroke Association

**FOLLOWING** a welcome to the 42 members of Coychurch WI present, the president Sandra Davidson introduced and welcomed Carol Carter, the Bridgend community co-ordinator of the Stroke Society, who gratefully accepted a cheque for £600 on behalf of the Bridgend area.

The donation was the proceeds from the Coychurch ladies (friends of WI) recent supper concert. Carol, with 20 years' service in Bridgend, gave a brief outline of the services provided in the area. She is very passionate regarding "life after a stroke".

Member Kath Mepham, in her own unique style, demonstrated how to prepare and cook pork fillets with redcurrant sauce and a mince meat gallette (a great alternative to mince pies).

Following the demonstration, members enjoyed sampling her efforts (Blue Peter style – "one I made earlier"). Kath was congratulated on being appointed lead tutor at Denman College in two disciplines, namely cookery and preserves.

The business of the evening followed, including:

Details of the NFWI council meeting held recently in Porthcawl, which 90 WIs and 470 members attended.

Members were thanked for their support and donations to Operation Christmas Child.

The excursion arrangements to Swansea and the Christmas dinner menu choice details were finalised.

Yvonne Smith appealed for bric-a-brac items for the Christmas bazaar stall on December 4, 7.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall, proceeds to be donated to next year's chosen charity. Nominations for the charity to be put forward at the next meeting.

Sheila Carr has volunteered to organise some theatre outings for those members that enjoy live entertainment; shows arranged to date are *Phantom of the Opera* and *Midnight Tango*.

The WI Christmas carol service will be held on Monday, December 3 at 3.30pm in St Crallo's Church.

Please note the change of time for the January meeting, which will now take place in the afternoon of January 8 from 1.30pm-4.30pm in the Williams Memorial Hall.

There will be a fish and chips luncheon and

a speaker from the Foodbank will attend. If you can, please bring a tin as a donation towards the scheme. Two bursaries for Denman College of £150 each will be drawn at the meeting.

**For further information on any WI business or events, contact Sandra Davidson on 01656 669232.**

## WI LINK EVENING

THE WI Link Penta Pen-y-Bont, members comprising of Brackla, Coity, Coychurch, Ogmere Vale and Pencoe, enjoyed a social supper evening on Wednesday, November 7.

The event was hosted

by Coychurch WI in the Williams Memorial Hall. Following the excellent meal, the special guest, sportswoman Non Evans MBE, gave an interesting illustrated talk on her prolific sports career from her early childhood to date.

Over the years, Non has competed internationally in four different sports; rugby union, attaining 87 caps, judo, weight lifting and freestyle wrestling, with a long list of medals in these disciplines. Non was also part of the Olympic commentary team.

A raffle followed and the ladies also enjoyed an entertaining game of Irish bingo to conclude the evening.

## Ladies plan to visit their 'twin'

**PORTHCAWL TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD**

**AFTER** a welcome from the chairman, we held a minute's silence for one of our members who had passed away.

We had the usual amusing report from our twin TG in Mansfield, and they seem to be very busy. We are hoping to return their visit next year to Mansfield for a few days.

We had a wonderful afternoon with Linda and Christine from the Rest entertaining us.

Our plans are well ahead for the Christmas tree festival at All Saints Church.

Our next meeting will be on December 12 at 2pm in All Saints Church Hall, when we will have our Christmas party, with Mike Boyles entertaining us with his music. All will be made welcome. **FR**

Christmas has come early in Bridgend County Borough...

... and the angels at Halo Leisure are giving you an early present!

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- Nofio
- Dosbarthiadau ymarfer corff mewn grŵp
- Chwaraeon rased
- Cyfleusterau sba

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# PORTHCAWL PUPILS PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED WEEK

**PHOTOGRAPHS by  
MALCOLM NUGENT**

**P**UPILS at the Porthcawl Comprehensive School, together with staff, threw themselves with great enthusiasm into the Children in Need cause last week.

The school's headteacher, Mr Kenny Dykes, said: "Able organised and led by the sixth form 'Head Team', the school raised a staggering £6,700 over the week for the BBC's long-standing fundraiser, as well as for other local charities in the Porthcawl and Bridgend areas."

"They were not confined to just Children in Need day, as many events were scheduled as early as two weeks ago."

"The range of fundraising activities included a 'sleep over' in school, 'Weakest Link', 'I'm a Teacher Get me Out of Here!', 'Take me Out', a quiz night in the Hi-Tide, 'Sponge the Teacher' and 'Porthcawl's Got Talent' to name but a few."

On Children in Need day itself, pupils came in fancy dress.

Porthcawl Comprehensive's head girl, Leonie McQuaide, said: "We wish to thank all who worked so hard in the events and for the pupils, parents and staff who gave so generously."

Adam Mounce, head boy, said: "We are delighted to have raised the unbelievable total of £6,700 for this worthy cause and local charities - well done to all."

(SEE MORE PICTURES  
ON OPPOSITE PAGE)



ABOVE: There were some ingenious fancy dress ideas!

BELOW: There were some messy trials for the staff who took part in 'I'm a Teacher, get me out of here!'



ABOVE: Eating bugs for a bushtucker trial.

BELOW: teachers who performed in 'Porthcawl's Got Talent'.



ABOVE: 'The Hulkettes'?  
BELOW: Bacon and Egg.



The staff who signed up for a bit of ritual humiliation in 'I'm a Teacher, get me out of here!'





# Positive action and calls to put BBC expenditure under closer scrutiny

**E**ARLIER this week, I presented a Bill in Parliament to introduce a new law which would force the BBC to publish its expenditure records and to open itself to unrestricted auditing.

Prior to the resignation of the corporation's Director General George Entwistle, over a Newsnight broadcast on child abuse allegations, I had secured time for what is known as a Ten Minute Bill on November 21, to introduce the law calling on the BBC to publish all invoices over £500.

This would fall in line with the requirement that local authorities are now bound to provide this information and, would give the National Audit Office unrestricted access.

I am a strong supporter of the BBC, and although the recent events have been inexcusable, we shouldn't lose the wider perspective of the positive influence of the organisation.

However, loyal supporters should not seek to hold back in proposing improvements. Greater transparency encourages more efficient spending and questions have been raised for some time on how the BBC spends its money.

Local constituents have asked how much money is spent on after-show parties; why the BBC advertises and how much it costs; and how much it pays to some of its presenters?

Gaining responses to these questions is not straightforward. That is why I



**Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers**

tabled this Bill earlier this year.

Previously, I wrote to the then Director General of the BBC, Mark Thompson, to ask that they publish all invoices over £500 to improve transparency in its spend, given the publicly-funded nature of the organisation. This request was turned down twice.

I later discovered that the National Audit Office can only investigate areas of spend with the BBC Trust's agreement.

This is extraordinary and to underline the importance of this, they have no immediate right to investigate the controversial pay-off to the recently-departed Director General, George Entwistle. Surely, we should have the same

transparency for expenditure across all public organisations?

In credit to the last Vale Council administration, they volunteered to publish their invoices over £500 and I hope that the new administration will continue on this basis.

I am told that this has made all officers think long and hard before commissioning services.

This new law would hold the BBC to the same scrutiny as other public bodies. I hope it will level the disparity between the demands placed on the BBC and local authorities.

In proposing this BBC Bill, I hope it will highlight to Parliament an important issue and an area that I trust the BBC will then start to respond to.

The BBC is clearly responding as quickly as possible to the awful situation regarding the victims of sexual abuse. As a global British institution, it is vital that it now focuses on restoring its credibility.

As part of this, the BBC Trust, which oversees the organisation, acted swiftly to ensure that its management and leadership issues were resolved quickly.

This will allow for the BBC to put the systems in place to ensure it can continue to make first class news and current affairs programmes, without falling into some of the traps it has done over the past few weeks.

*The BBC acts as the cornerstone of UK public service broadcasting and must face the same scrutiny as any other public organisation – from financial information transparency, to examination of its culture and practices.*

## Town councillor raises issue of mayor's car, but Vale Council explains... 'An employee has a right to confidentiality'

**SO the Vale Council has now bought an all singing all dancing super-doooper Skoda, to replace the mayor's Jaguar that was written off in a supermarket car park back in September.**

*The last limo, which was in excellent condition, was disposed of after hitting a bollard at Morrison's car park in Barry.*

*However, we the taxpayers who paid for that Jag are still being kept in the dark as to how this accident actually happened.*

*If I remember rightly, the ruling Labour group promised to be open and transparent prior to the last council elections – so why can't they tell us?*

*We as taxpayers owned that vehicle, so we surely have the right to know what has happened.*

**Coun Robert Bertin, Barry Town Council.**

• The GEM put Coun Bertin's comments to the Vale Council:

Bev Noon, operational manager for cor-

porate policy and communications, said: "I understand the public's desire to know the details of matters involving the mayoral car."

"However, as an employer, we have a duty of care to our employees, and their personal and confidential issues cannot be aired in public."

"We are unable to release personal information to the public."

"If we did, the council would be subject to a hefty fine under Data Protection law by the Information Commissioner."

"I am sure that the Vale public wouldn't want council resources wasted in this way to

satisfy the desire for gossip."

"This council has excellent employment practices, having a good relationship with both unions and our employees, and we will not move away from these practices."

**The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, explained:** "When a staff issue is investigated by an employer, the member of staff has a right to expect confidentiality from their employer."

"The council is committed to transparency but obviously there are times when it is not right for the council to share personal details with the public. This is one of those times."

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### Local MP welcomes latest jobs figures

**VALE MP Alun Cairns has welcomed the latest fall in Vale unemployment, shown in figures published last month by the Office for National Statistics.**

*The number of unemployed claimants in the Vale of Glamorgan constituency in October was 2,353, 179 lower than in October 2011, and 27 lower than in September this year.*

*Mr Cairns said: "This is great news for Wales. There are 13,000 more people in work, with thousands fewer unemployed as well."*

*"In my constituency, too, the claimant count has come down, which is fantastic news."*

*"This is really positive for us locally and does show that although the economic climate is still tough, there is cause for gentle optimism."*

*"We need to use this momentum and do everything we can to get more people back to work."*

## GEM LETTERS EXTRA...GEM LETTERS LDP: 'A plan with two tales'

**I**N the past few months, letters to The GEM have been telling two opposing tales about what is happening about the Local Development Plan.

One tale, from the Labour-led Vale Council, was that Labour disagreed with a flawed LDP; promised to scrap it and replace it; has considered how this can best be done; and has

now started the process to carry out replacement of the LDP.

The second tale, from Conservative AMs and MP and other opposition politicians, has been about cynical election manipulation by Labour, a broken election promise, and most recently, an about-face to scrap the LDP after all, because of letters by Conservatives to local papers.

The second tale is an unlikely story driven by

wishful thinking and the most unlikely part is that the Labour-led Vale Council was 'embarrassed' into scrapping the LDP because of letters to The GEM.

How can anyone be embarrassed by being entirely consistent about their intentions from start to finish, and carrying out their intention as stated? The first tale is straightforward and follows words with deeds.

The Conservatives and others have tried to

make political capital during the (relatively short) period since the election when a complex change was being considered.

They have done a disservice to residents of the Vale by putting out misleading information

for which they had no evidence.

They should apologise for getting it so wrong and so publicly, now it's apparent we are going to do just what we said we would do.

**John Drysdale, Barry, Iltyd Ward councillor.**

### The public are just 'cash cows'

**A RECENT article in the national media highlights the fact that the public are being treated as cash cows yet again.**

From the £75 penalty people receive for littering, XFOR receive at least £35 and the rest goes into town hall coffers, which is legal under the Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.

However, it appears that this contractor employed by the council is penalising people for the most trivial acts of littering.

A lady in Blaenau Gwent was fined £75 for dropping a thread from her gloves accidentally, and others fined whilst in the process of picking up what they had accidentally dropped.

This is ludicrous: XFOR has pocketed

£1.6m in Wales and England in pursuit of their cash cows (the public).

The more serious offences of fly tipping and dog fouling (which is unsightly, smelly and a health risk to everyone) are apparently not being pursued.

I understood when the Vale Council employed XFOR earlier this year by the then council leader that dog fouling was a priority.

This is not the case, the percentage of fines issued for this disgusting act is very minimal.

In fact, I would like to see a breakdown of fines given and for what?

There was a time many years ago when councillors worked for and with their electorate, not treat them as revenue cash cows.

**Ian Govier, Rhooose.**

### LDP: 'Playing with words'

**L**AST week's GEM led with the report that the Vale Council were, at long last, to scrap the LDP.

This followed the uncovering of official minutes of a meeting between Vale councillors and the Welsh Government that showed they only planned to make 'focussed changes' to the development document they inherited, and that they were content with other aspects.

As soon as the details were published on the council's website, I naturally played close attention to their plans, in considering the many hundreds of letters I have received on this issue.

Unfortunately, the details of the planned actions are far from their headline. To scrap the plan would be to change the strategy of the LDP; they are not.

There are seven stages in the development of the LDP process, with gathering evidence and setting the strategy being the first. The Vale Council are merely planning to revisit stage 3 – Plan preparation.

If the strategy hasn't changed, then the outcomes will be broadly the same. The Welsh Government's expectation to build 10,000 new houses remains.

I fear that we will end up having the same numbers of houses in the same areas. They are merely planning to move deckchairs around, in spite of the lack of infra-

structure. Councillors in charge of the process are being disingenuous. It is clear that they had no plan to scrap the LDP, in spite of their promise before the election.

Having being caught out with the disclosure of the minutes of their meeting with the Welsh Government, they are choosing to play with words.

They have the same very real difficulties as the last authority – a housing target from the Welsh Government that our communities cannot cope with.

The bottom line is that many communities are worried and angry; the least they deserve is honesty. I will do all I can to represent them. **Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan.**



## 'Bedtime Stories' with Potato Street Players

FOR their 76th production at Wick Village Hall, the Potato Street Players performed the UK premiere of *Bedtime Stories* by Canadian Author, Norm Foster.

Carroll and Mary Swaine had seen the play when holidaying in Canada and wanted to stage it back home.

Unable to source the script in the UK, they successfully e-mailed the author, who attached a copy of the script to his

affirmative reply. The play was in six acts, all having a link which became clearer as each act progressed and all using the same bedroom set.

Marie Sheppard and Carroll Swaine in the opening act portrayed a middle aged couple preparing to perform for the listeners of local radio the intimacies of their love life, for a price.

Hywel Evans played the unrequited, in his ambitions, DJ - hoping this would elevate his career. All three brought

their experience to the parts, with Marie holding centre stage becoming the agony aunt to the DJ and turning around his ambitions toward a more domestic ideal.

The second act was more reflective. Robbie Norris playing a dying man receiving a visit in his bedroom from his High School crush anxious to redeem her teenage actions before he died and obtain forgiveness for her heartless treatment following a date to attend a rock concert whilst both in High School.

This was a delightful 'two hander' Ann Norris giving an excellent performance, with a convincing accent, as the rather vain petulant and unhappy woman seeking solace. Robbie Norris was equally convincing managing to convey the character's wry graveyard attitude to this unexpected encounter with 'the love of his life' on his deathbed.

Richard Rees and Rhys Evans in the next act portrayed house breakers with differing agendas and attitudes. We gained insight of the two characters from the script and the empathy which emulated from their shared experience of relationships encapsulated during the bungled break-in was sympathetically portrayed by both.

The entrance of the 'Alice Cooper' - inspired character Tommy Quick, took the audience by surprise - with the 6" platform shoes, gothic make up, shoulder length black wig and equally impressive black spangled jump suit.

David Boulton was fascinating as the rock star pursued by the 19-year-

old fan, played convincingly by Paula Williams, determined to be a notch on his bed post, but finding instead a tight-fisted, (vitamin) pill-popping, compulsively tidy, 50-year-old anxious to get back home and get the girl out of his room as soon as possible.

The next act had the audience in stitches, with Julie Lloyd playing the accident-prone Sandy, more often falling down the slippery pole in pain in her job as exotic pole dancer - and not called, as hoped, to the bedroom of her employer Charlie for a more seductive reason.

Her 'bump and grind' performance causing unintended injury, together with the ice cold remedy, was appreciated by the audience. Conrad Walters gave a sympathetic portrayal as Charlie when trying to sack the 'rhythmless' Sandy.

The final act took us back to the bedroom of the radio DJ with his wife, played by Pam Moss, and the removal men, David Jenkins and David Hoskin, where marital harmony was achieved and we finally met the taxi driver without the 'knowledge' - Yolanda (Debi Carr).

This was an enjoyable 'premiere' performance, appreciated by the audience, of a somewhat 'risque' production, which also combined scenes of reflection and intimacy that drew good character performances from the company.

Thanks must go to the directors Carroll and Mary Swaine and the production team, for putting together another excellent evening's entertainment.

MARJORIE DIXON

## Cadets spread their wings over parades for Remembrance



ON Remembrance Sunday, Air Cadets from 2300 (St Athan) Sqn were called on to be present at various locations throughout the rural Vale.

The cadets covered St Athan, Llanfarcarn and Llantwit Major, paraded through the villages, and attended church services.

Every year, the squadron attends these three services to build links with the local communities.

Cadets laid wreaths at each service, and paid their respects to those whose courage and bravery cost them their lives.

All parades were very moving and 2300 St Athan cadets felt proud and honoured to have participated.

The staff who attended the services were Flight Lieutenant Bentley-Miller, Flying Officer Duffin, Sergeant Jones and Civilian Instructor Richard Gaskin.

The photo above

was taken at the Llanfarcarn parade, and was attended by Corporals Hannah Gaskin, and Cadets Cameron Sleeth and Matthew Lynch-Wilson.

For a chance to enjoy flying, gliding, shooting, sports and adventure training, contact the squadron on 01446 798684.

Parade nights are Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm-9.30pm), boys and girls aged 13-18 are welcome!

We have the use of all the facilities on the MoD base, including a flight simulator, accommodation, a rifle range, a runway and gyms.

Contact Flight Lieutenant David Bentley-Miller at: oc.2300@aircadets.org for details.

CORPORAL HANNAH GASKIN

ABOVE:  
The cadets who attended the parade at Llanfarcarn.

## RBL Llantwit thanks residents

THE Royal British Legion in Llantwit Major would like to say a huge thank you to all residents who helped to make our Remembrance Parade a success.

Special thanks also go out to the marshals and everyone else who assisted on the day. It was lovely to see so many people, especially the children, attending this solemn occasion.

Maureen Geary-Andrews

RBL secretary

Llantwit Major

## Thank you to Cowbridge

I WOULD like to thank Cowbridge Town Council for organising the Remembrance Day parade, all the groups that took part in the parade, and the organisations and people who supported the event on the day.

In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to the busi-

nesses that supported the Poppy Appeal, and say a big thank you to all the volunteers who collected on the streets.

As he is retiring as the Poppy Appeal organiser, I would also like to thank Mr Len Taylor for the work he has done over the last five years and welcome his replacement, David Howell, to the position.

Hayden Painter, Chairman of Cowbridge Royal British Legion.

## Nash Point Lighthouse is now all white again!



ABOVE: Staff from Ian Williams Properties who painted the lighthouse.

AN iconic local landmark has been given a splash of new life - thanks to a team of specialist painters.

Nash Point Lighthouse has been spruced up by leading property services company Ian Williams.

The 19th century lighthouse was the last manned lighthouse in Wales, until August 1998, when the lighthouse keepers left.

Now the lighthouse, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel, is open to the public.

Trinity House, the General Lighthouse Authority (GLA) which manages 69 lighthouses across the UK, appointed Ian Williams to complete the work.

The £70,000 project saw Ian Williams' operatives repaint the lighthouse over an eight-week period, using 1,800 litres of paint.

Steve Lenahan, business manager at Ian Williams, said roped access was needed to

carry out the work. At its highest point, the lighthouse stands at 37 metres and has two towers.

He added: "The team which worked on Nash Point lighthouse has specialist knowledge and experience of working on unique projects like this."

"We appreciate the local importance of the tower, and within our team we have experience of working on lighthouses and listed properties."

"We have painted other lighthouses, including The Needles off the Isle of Wight and Smeatons Tower at Plymouth."

Nash Point Lighthouse was designed by James Walker, the engineer-in-chief to Trinity House, in 1832 to mark the sandbanks off the point at the entrance to the Bristol Channel.

The decision to build it followed a public outcry after the passenger steamer, Frolic, was wrecked with heavy loss of life in 1830.

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES (BOVERTON ROAD, LLANTWIT MAJOR) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2012

- On the 12th November 2012 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 45, 46 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended) and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:
- The Order will come into operation on 26th November 2012 or on the date the necessary signs are removed, whichever is the later.
- A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.
- If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 26th November 2012 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

### SCHEDULE

The following Traffic Regulation Orders to be amended as follows:

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Boverton Road, Llantwit Major) (Limited Waiting) Order 1989.

Schedule 1, Column 1 delete the following text:

'and from a point 181 metres west of the same junction for a distance of 9 metres west.'

The County Council of South Glamorgan (Boverton Road, Llantwit Major) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) Order 1988.

In the Schedule delete text '6 metres' and replace with text '13 metres'

Dated this 22nd day of November 2012.

M. E. Punter  
Director of Visible Services & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps,  
Wenvoe CF5 6AA



## CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2012 GORCHYMYN (DIWYGIO) YNGLYN A MANNAU PARCIO I BOBL ANABL (BOVERTON ROAD, LLANILLTUD FAWR)

1. Ar 12 Tachwedd 2012, yr oedd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, gan arfer ei bwerau o ad Adranau 45, 46 a 53 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 1984 (diwygiedig), a phob p. er galluogi arall, wedi gwneud Gorchymyn i'r dibenion cyffredinol a nodwyd isod:

2. Daw'r Gorchymyn i rym ar 26 Tachwedd 2012, neu pan fydd yr arwyddion angenrheidiol wedi'u symud, pa un bynnag fo'r dyddiad diweddaraf.

3. Cewch weld copi o'r Gorchymyn a chynllun sy'n dangos y manau dan sylw, yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa.

4. Os hoffed ddadlau'n erbyn dilyswydd y Gorchymyn neu'i ddarpari-aethau am na chredwch fod gan y ddeddf uchod b. er i'w gweithredu, neu am y tiwbwlch eu bod yn methu â chydymffurfio â gofynion y ddeddf uchod neu un o'i hofferfynau, bydd gennych chwe wythnos o 26 Tachwedd 2012 i wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i'r diben hwnnw.

### ATODLEN

Diwygier y Gorchymynion Rheoli Traffig hyn fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn (Cyfyngu ar Aros) (Boverton Road, Llanilltud Fawr) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1989.

Atodlen 1, Colofn 1 - dileir y testun canlynol:

'ac o fan sy'n 181 metr i'r gorllewin o'r un gyffordd am 9 metr i gyfeiriad y gorllewin.'

Gorchymyn (Mannau Parcio i Bobl Anabl) (Boverton Road, Llanilltud Fawr) Cyngor Sir De Morgannwg 1988.

Yn yr Atodlen, dile'r y testun '6 metr' a dodi '13 metr' yn ei le.

Dyddiedig 22 Tachwedd 2012

M. E. Punter,  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai,  
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,  
Canolfan yr Alpau, Gwefnô. CF5 6AA.





# 'INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE IS RIGHT WAY FORWARD FOR WALES'

## Welsh Assembly Notes



by Vale AM  
**JANE HUTT**  
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

**L**AST week, I was involved in two very important events which demonstrated our commitment to investing in young people in Wales.

I led the Draft Budget Debate for 2013/14 in the Senedd, opening it with the message that our commitment to protecting schools, health and social services remains at the forefront of our priorities.

I also visited St Cycles School to 'cut the turf' with the Vale Council Leader, Coun Neil Moore and Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children and young people, at an exciting ceremony to mark the start of work for the

building of the £47m Penarth Learning Community - with a £33.3m contribution from the Welsh Government.

As we gathered together with the headteachers, governors and pupils from St. Cycles School, Ashgrove School, Ysgol Er'w Delyn and Ysgol Maes Dyfan, we watched the builders and diggers at work on the vast site from which will rise the most exciting school project the contractor, Leadbitter, has ever been involved with.

The new schools will be open in two years' time - on budget and on time - I was assured by the project managers with public money for the best educational environment and facilities for our young people.

A key element of the new SEN School alongside St Cycles, will be the integration of functions such as children's services and health professionals - integrating education, health and social care.

Support for young people featured heavily in the draft Budget debate. As a result of our discussions over the past few weeks about the priorities we share with other political parties, I was able to announce that the Welsh Labour Government had reached an agreement with Plaid Cymru to provide an additional £20m next year and in 2014/15, to expand support for apprenticeships.

I said that this addi-

tional investment will build on the funding we have already allocated to support progression at all levels of apprenticeships, and specifically to support 16-24-year-olds into employment.

We have already created 4,000 job opportunities in our Jobs Growth Wales scheme to provide work and training for this age group - which has been at the sharp end of the impacts of the recession.

I was also able to confirm the uplift next year for the pupil deprivation grant, taking the total funding to £36.8m and £38.2m over the next two years. Schools across the Vale are already using this to good effect to help improve educational attainment of our most disadvantaged pupils.

With the action the UK Government is taking to cut welfare benefits, it is more important than ever that we continue to maintain the benefits we have funded in Wales that can make a difference to children's lives - such as healthy free school breakfasts, offered in so many of our Vale primary schools.

Also, access to free swimming in the school holidays in our leisure centres helps hard pressed families and provides important access to healthy lifestyles for children.

We discussed the impact of the UK Government's welfare reform programme in the budget debate, drawing attention to the Institute

of Fiscal Studies Report which estimates that the impact of the tax and benefit changes to be implemented by 2014-15 will mean that, on average, households in Wales can expect to lose 4.1 per cent of their income. This compares to a UK average loss of 3.8 per cent.

Families with children are expected to be hit hardest - the poorest households with children estimated to lose the largest proportion of their income as a result of these UK Government tax and benefit changes.

As we strive to 'put children first' in the tough decisions we make in our Welsh Government budget, we know that we have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable and give all our children the best start in life.

We are doing this by protecting our budgets for schools, keeping our educational maintenance allowances, and expanding our Flying Start and apprenticeships programmes.

That is a mark of our commitment to our young people.

## VWBN's 10-YEAR CELEBRATION!

THE Vale Women's Business Network held an event at The Quarter Penny Café Cowbridge, to thank their patron, Jane Hutt AM, for her 10 years of support.

She was presented with a picture created by one of the talented VWBN members. Newly-launched PhotoART, which is owned by Lorraine D'Allenger from Llanmaes, takes people's photos and then turns them into art works.

The VWBN have compiled a fun and informative programme for 2013 and welcome women to all events.



PICTURED: Lorraine D'Allenger, Jane Hutt and Margaret Everson.

## 'Everyone's Future' wants your ideas

**'EVERYONE'S FUTURE' is a new, inter-generational partnership project between Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff & The Vale.**

The project is funded by the Big Lottery until 2014, with two age equality workers aiming to tackle negative stereotyping and challenge age discrimination of younger and older people.

A spokeswoman explained: "We are in the process of setting up an 'Everyone's Future' working group, which would be made up of project staff, older people, young people, and professionals.

"This group has the opportunity to help shape the project, assist at events, spread the aim of the project and may form the catalyst for further intergenerational projects down the line.

"The meetings will be informal and everyone will have the chance to give their opinions and ideas.

The first meeting will be held on November 29 at Area 41, Holton Road, Barry at 4pm.

If you are interested and would like more information, contact Louise David, Age Equality Worker (Young People) via email: [louise@vibeexperience.com](mailto:louise@vibeexperience.com) or call 01446 700622.

## Talk on Llandow air disaster

**RHOOSE and District History Society is presenting a talk by Don Llewellyn on the 1950 air disaster at Llandow.**

It will be held on Friday, November 30, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets are £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16).

The committee invites those attending to a light buffet following the talk.

**The Christmas Countdown Continues Week 4 of 7**

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## Big Wrap to help the Vale's needy

**THE Vale Council has chosen 'The Big Wrap' for its annual Christmas appeal this year.**

Individuals, businesses and council staff are being invited to buy an extra gift this festive season to help disadvantaged local children have a happy Christmas in 2012.

Last year, 145 children and young people received a Christmas gift and 50 food hampers were given to struggling families, thanks to the Big Wrap.

A council spokesperson said: "The idea is simple - if you can spare a few pounds, please pop an extra gift in your basket when you're doing

your Christmas shop, then drop off the gift at the Civic Offices in Barry.

"The Big Wrap is collecting Christmas gifts suitable for youngsters aged from 0-17 years, as well as food hampers. Gifts must be new and unwrapped."

Each year, The Vale Council children's services team works in partnership with Coastlands Family Church to provide presents and food hampers to young people leaving care and families in need.

If you're able to help The Big Wrap appeal, please drop off your unwrapped gift or hamper at the Civic Offices in Barry before December 7.

## CCTV ARRESTS

**POLICE made eight arrests and issued one ASBO referral in the Vale of Glamorgan last week, following information provided by the Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team.**

The police were contacted a total of 58 times by CCTV operators during the week ending November 18.

## Great local inspiring people with a story

Marco Zeraschi  
Ice cream to the stars

Paul Robane  
Celebrating live music

The story of Barry Town Supporters Club

Hilary Brown  
Jamaican Reggae into Barry

Claire Scantlebury  
Tapping the world's greatest thinkers

Anthony Hopkins  
Taking a butchers around the world

Speaker - to be announced soon

7 Barry people - each speak for 7 minutes - sharing their stories on what they are doing to change their world.

**Want to see Barry yet better?**

Come along for an evening to hear local people make you laugh, cry, or be proud.

The event will also mark the launch of the Barry Ideasbank - by the Flexible Thinking Forum. A new way for sharing your ideas to make a difference to your community.

**at the Glamorgan Suite, Memorial Hall, Barry**

**on Monday 26th November 2012**

Doors open 6.30pm Talks start 7.00pm

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**FREE ENTRY**



## First non-smoking playground now open in Iolo Park, Barry



ABOVE: The Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, and his wife, with children celebrating Iolo Park playground becoming a smoke-free zone.

**THE Vale Council and the Cardiff and Vale Public Health Team have launched the first smoke-free playground in Cardiff and the Vale.**

As part of the Tobacco Control Action Plan for Wales 2012, the Welsh Government and ASH Wales are encouraging local authorities to promote smoke-free playgrounds to protect children from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke.

As a result, Iolo Park in Barry has become the first playground to take part in the scheme, with the aim of rolling out smoke-free playgrounds in other areas across the Vale.

Pupils from Jenner Park Primary School were invited to take part in a competition to design a smoke-free sign for the playground.

The competition winner Melissa Hughes (10), from Jenner Park Primary School, will

have her poster displayed at the playground, alongside the ASH Wales signage.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, said: "The council is delighted to see Iolo Park become the first designated smoke-free playground in Cardiff and the Vale."

"We also look forward to seeing this initiative rolled out to other playgrounds throughout the county and beyond."

The chief executive of ASH Wales, Elen de Lacy, said: "A recent YouGov survey showed that 79 per cent of the Welsh public now support banning smoking in playgrounds."

"We believe children and young people have a right to play and to meet their friends in a safe and clean environment, free of smoke and tobacco litter."

"Young people are also more likely to start smoking themselves if they see adults doing it in a family friendly environment."

## QUESTIONS THAT ARE SLOWLY BEING ANSWERED

**I**WOULD like to begin by congratulating both Stephen Doughty, the new MP for Cardiff South and Penarth, and Alun Michael as the new Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales.

Knowing them both very well, I am confident they will do a great job and look forward to working with them.

I am pleased to announce a new initiative that I called for and that has been paid for using the savings from cutting the special responsibility allowances allocated to members of the council. This initiative will deal with the backlog of requests for disabled parking bays outside people's homes where they need help in accessing their properties.

Currently, the council only allocate 10 per year, and as there was a backlog of nearly 30 approved applications, it would have taken three years before they were all cleared.

This initiative will clear the backlog in one fell swoop, helping those people retain some independence.

I am also delighted that the traffic lights have finally been installed on the Barry Docks Link Road. The safety along this route has been a major issue of mine, my Cadoc council colleagues and others for years, and I am pleased that this delivers another of Labour's election pledges.

I would like to thank the South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) for selecting this scheme as a priority for funding, along with the Welsh Government, who provided the £600k funding to SEWTA for the project.

The future use of the land at either side of Cemetery Approach in Barry has had a question mark hanging over it for some time, and a consultation exercise was carried out to ask the people what uses they would like to see there.

The two most popular options were for an open community garden (31 per cent) and

### VIEW FROM THE VALE



by Coun  
**NEIL  
MOORE**  
Leader of the  
Vale of  
Glamorgan  
Council

allotments (25 per cent).

As a result, we have instructed officers to develop plans as to how these can be delivered and a report will be presented to cabinet as soon as we can.

Consultation of this kind is exactly what this new administration is committed to, and with the help of local people we are now doing something the public require.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to take part in the consultation and share their ideas with us.

We have also begun another important consultation exercise on the future of the former St Cyres School site in Dinas Powys. The 30-acre site is no longer required by the council and a new use is being sought for the site.

We would like to hear what ideas people have for the land.

The consultation ends on January 11, so let us know your views by visiting the council's website: [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or by telephoning the council on 01446 700111. There will also be a 'drop in' session to discuss ideas or ask questions on Saturday, December 8, from 10am-2pm, at the Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys.

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## 'I am Eurosceptic' says MP: 'Oh no you're not!' claims UKIP councillor

LAST week, The GEM ran a story in which a Vale constituent, Mrs Jenet Lockwood, called on local MP Alun Cairns to support an in-out referendum on the European Union.

In the article, Mr Cairns described himself as "Euro-sceptic", adding that as soon as the Euro crisis had stabilised, he favoured a referendum on membership under a renegotiated settlement.

Those comments drew the following remarks from local Sully UKIP councillor, Coun Kevin Mahoney:

"I was a little surprised to read in last week's Barry GEM, November 15, of Alun Cairns' strong assertions of Euroscepticism in response to Mrs Jenet Lockwood's view that the UK should pull out of the European Union.

"Over a period of many years, having never heard so much as a peep out of Alun in regards to his supposed dissatisfaction with the EU, I took the trouble to carry out a very quick and easy check of his voting record on EU matters with the well respected 'Theyworkforyou.com' website.

"Surprise surprise, not only did Alun vote against the recent proposal to reduce the European Union's budget demands, but the website lists his overall record as Voting 'Very strongly for more EU integration'.

"Surely in this digital and internet age, Alun should have realised

that an easily available check on his voting record would very quickly expose his words on this subject?

"One can only assume that Alun Cairns has adopted his party leader David Cameron's tactic of playing to the gallery at home, whilst adopting a totally different policy whilst 'out of town' and, presumably in Alun's case, thinking his actions are out of sight also.

"Any keen observers of the EU parliament in Brussels at work will readily confirm that at the same time as the Conservative party leader pretends to talk tough about curbing EU power in the UK media, his party's MEPs in Brussels are busy voting through every bit of proposed EU legislation, as fast as they can get their hands into the air.

"Perhaps Alun might like to explain how he has arrived at his claims of being Eurosceptic whilst consistently voting in favour of greater integration into the EU."

Vale MP Alun Cairns responded: "Further to the article in last week's GEM regarding the EU and the subsequent comment from Coun Kevin Mahoney, I wanted to clarify to GEM readers my stance regarding the EU, not least as a member of the Eurosceptic Fresh Start Group in Parliament.

"I fear that Coun Mahoney is choosing a simplistic approach for his convenience, which gives an inaccurate position. I have said on the record on many occasions that I am in favour of a referendum.

"Let me be clear, I want a relationship with Europe that is primarily based on trade. I want to see us withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights, as was published in the GEM back in February this year.

"The UK Parliament should have the final say on justice and home affairs. We should take back immigration powers.

"Health and safety legislation should be a matter for the UK Government. We should repatriate social and employment legislation and we should protect Britain from financial regulation that would impact the UK more than any other economy. I could go on and on.

"I am also in favour of cutting the amount of money we pay to Europe but disagreed with the tactics of the recent motion.

"Sadly, as a result of the technical rules agreed many years ago, using a veto in the seven-year budget negotiation could lead to a vote by majority on an annual basis.

"In view of the fact that we are one of the few net contributors, we are hardly likely to win such a vote. That is an example of why the issue is more complicated than is suggested.

"Sadly, this is a coalition government, and a Conservative administration would go much further than the Lib Dems will allow – but that was the outcome of the election. Voting for any party other than Conservative, leads to a more pro-EU Government – UKIP included."

## South Wales Police report fall in anti-social incidents on Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night

ANTI-SOCIAL behaviour incidents reported across the Vale and Bridgend on both Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night fell substantially this year.

According to figures from South Wales Police for the 24 hours of Hallowe'en, there were 26 ASB occurrences across Central BCU (12 in the Vale and 14 in Bridgend) this year, compared to 63 in 2011 (29 in the Vale and 34 in Bridgend).

Bonfire Night saw 17 ASB occurrences across Central BCU (eight in the Vale and nine in Bridgend), compared to 43 last year (18 in the Vale and 25 in Bridgend).

### WEATHER

The police have linked the decrease to the wet weather, and to the experience, commitment, and team work from the many police officers and partnerships working together.

They revealed that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have been visiting schools, shopping centres and retailers to increase

awareness among children, parents and shop workers about what they can do to ensure Hallowe'en is fun and not feared by anyone, as part of 'Operation BANG'.

Many extra officers were patrolling the streets on Hallowe'en night, targeting known anti-social behaviour hotspots to deal quickly with any disturbances.

They said that local events were also organised to keep young people off the streets and out of trouble, and schools liaison officers also gave

assembly talks to drive home the message that Hallowe'en is no excuse to misbehave.

A spokesperson said: "All the efforts paid off as, for the second year running, the number of incidents recorded has never been so low."

Superintendent Paul James, head of operations for Bridgend and the Vale, said:

"Operation BANG, the multi-agency initiative that runs over the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night period, has allowed us to ensure the safety of our communities once

again at this busy time of year. It is an apt title as BANG stands for 'Be A Nice Guy', and encourages good citizenship and responsible celebrations over the Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night period.

"With incidents of anti-social behaviour more than halved compared to last year, we want to thank all of our communities for their co-operation; and remind individuals that anti-social behaviour, or any other criminal activity, will not be tolerated under any circumstances."



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# Lifelong carer Tracey wins her own 'Oscar'

A HEALTH care support worker whose childhood dream was to spend her life looking after others has won a top accolade at the Wales Care Awards – considered the 'Care Oscars' – at a glittering ceremony in Cardiff.

From the age of just 10, Tracey Morgan was a volunteer helper at her local elderly persons home. Eventually, she was able to go into caring as a full-time career and it is her supreme dedication to the job that has seen her honoured.

Tracey (42), who lives in Brynna, Pontyclun, works in the Vale, Bridgend and west Wales, supporting clients – mainly children and young adults – with varying disabilities and needs.

She took bronze in 'The Peter Clarke Award for Promoting Excellence in Services for Children and Young People', sponsored by City & Guilds.

After leaving school at 16, Tracey had a number of factory jobs before landing the role she really wanted, as a



*Brynna's Tracey Morgan with her 'Oscar' for the care work she provides over Bridgend, the Vale and west Wales.*

care assistant at a nursing home in Porthcawl.

In 2006, she joined April Complete Care Solutions, based in Bridgend, as a support worker covering an enormous patch that often sees her driving 400 miles a week, supplying her own fuel, to travel to clients.

She sometimes works seven days a week because she finds the job so rewarding.

One young man with learning disabilities who she has looked

after for the past four years describes her quite simply as his "rock", because he has grown to depend on her so much.

Tracey, who has been married to her husband David for 19 years, said: "I had always wanted to do care work because I just love looking after people."

"I help my clients with all kinds of things from dressing to taking them on outings. I sometimes work seven days a week and drive

hundreds of miles a week to help my clients.

"Just to see a smile on their faces shows me I have helped them and is all the reward I need."

"I can't believe I have won bronze in for the Wales Care Awards. I think all carers do a good job but it is nice to be thought of in this way."

Nominating Tracey for the awards, her manager Wendy Duckworth said of her: "We received an overwhelming amount of support when mentioning this nomination to her clients and co-workers."

"They all agree that Tracey is deserving of such recognition for the tremendous job that she does."

At the presentation ceremony the winners were presented with awards by the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services, Gwenda Thomas AM.

The event was covered by BBC newsreader Lucy Owen, with entertainment from the talented mezzo-soprano, Sioned Terry.

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## NEWS FROM THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

## Pupils put on a demo evening



Headteacher Mr McNamara took the opportunity to watch the presentations and chat to parents and carers.

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 students recently welcomed their parents/guardians and families to the annual 'pupil progress presentation evening'.

During the evening, boys made presentations to demonstrate the progress that they have made since joining the school in September. Students were asked to focus on English, Maths and a subject of their choice.

Parental involvement in learning is vital in ensuring students achieve at their highest level. As part of this school/home partnership, parents

were asked to note targets for improvement and support materials were available to make sure the whole family can join-in and make the most of the learning opportunities available.

As part of the school's drive to raise standards, the evening was fully evaluated. Here are just some of the comments from parents and carers:

"The evening was very well organised and very informative."

"I am very impressed with Joe's progress and enthusiasm to learn. Thank you."

## Vale MP's support for 20mph speed limit

ALUN CAIRNS is backing a new national campaign appealing to drivers and authorities to GO 20

<http://www.go20.org>, to bring about a 2012 legacy of safe walking and cycling for all. Brake, the road safety charity, alongside a GO 20 coalition, is appealing to drivers to slow down to 20mph around homes, schools and shops. The coalition is also calling for 20mph limits to become the norm across built-up areas, so children and adults can walk and cycle for their health and enjoyment without being or feeling endangered.

Mr Cairns heard that from a survey of 506 children in Wales, by Brake and partners Brain Injury Group and Specsavers, that three in

four children said drivers need to slow down around their home and school. The children said they would be able to walk and cycle more if roads in their communities were safer.

The MP explained: "I want the Vale to be as healthy, happy, and friendly as possible for everyone who lives here, and slowing down to 20mph around schools, shops, and homes will help us to achieve that."

"It will also help us to prevent devastating casualties on our roads, which cause terrible suffering to the families affected. That's why I'm getting behind the GO 20 campaign and showing my support for Road Safety Week."

"Residents across the Vale deserve as many opportunities as possible to get active outside,

and to not be endangered while they're on foot and bicycle. I am pleased to work alongside Brake to make that a reality."

Julie Townsend, deputy chief executive at Brake, added: "Anyone who drives can help bring this about: pledge to GO 20 around homes, schools and shops, even where the limit's still 30: you'll be helping to protect people around you, and you'll hardly notice the difference to your journey."

"We're also calling on more authorities to recognise the benefits of 20mph limits, and the huge demand for safe walking and cycling, and GO 20."

Anyone can pledge their support for GO 20 and safer walking and cycling at [go20.org](http://go20.org).



Protective goggles on for a quick science demonstration...



Demonstrating some ICT skills.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Garden waste collections

THE Vale Council is reminding residents that the final day this year for its fortnightly kerbside garden waste collections is November 30.

The council's ring and request service will take its place from December 3 until February 22, and residents should call the council's contact centre, Contact One Vale, on 01446 700111 to arrange for garden waste to be collected.

The kerbside collection service will resume on February 25, 2013.

## 'Thank you' from charity

DIXON J Dagg and Valerie Ellis would like to thank all those who supported their recent cheese and wine party in aid of the Joshua Foundation – both businesses who donated items to auction and those who attended and made contributions.

About £700 was raised on the night.

## PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT will be at the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on Monday, November 26 at 6.30pm.

COURT PACT will be at Ilminster Scout Hall on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT will be at Fairfield Primary School, Dryden Road, Penarth, on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

GIBBONS DOWN PACT will be at Fairfield Primary School, Dryden Road, Penarth, on Thursday, November 29 at 6pm.

## Readers' photographs wanted to showcase the Vale's beauty



The millstream and the mill, taken by Malcolm Nugent.

TWO readers have submitted photographs showing the beautiful sights the Vale has to offer, leading The GEM to ask other readers to continue the trend.

Porthcawl photographer Malcolm Nugent sent his photograph in after walking down the Heritage pathway.

He said: "I took this on the road down from the Plough and Harrow towards the coast, between Southerndown and the lighthouse at Nash Point."

"I had no idea that this wonderful scenery existed there. A mill-



Beautiful sunset over the garden of Philip Brown.

stream with a derelict mill, even in late autumn, makes a fab composition."

GEM reader Philip Brown also sent in a beautiful photo of the sunset over his house in Barry.

He said: "I took the picture at dusk last Saturday (November 17) as the sun was disap-

pearing with a dramatic effect, taken from my back garden in Barry."

The GEM would like to see further photographs from readers out and about, showcasing the beautiful scenery available in the Vale. Email them to: [gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk](mailto:gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk) for consideration.

## St Brides goes 'pyjamas' for Children in Need!



CHILDREN at St Brides Major C/W Primary School went 'pyjamas' last Friday, in aid of Children in Need.

Everyone, including staff, came to school in their pyjamas and dressing gowns and teddies. It was a fun-packed day and the children raised a wonderful £340.

The school is holding an autumn open day today (November 22).

On Saturday, November 24, the school choir will be performing at the Christmas Tree Festival in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 10.30am and would be delighted to have a big audience for this festive occasion.

Life at St Brides, as always, is extremely busy but lots of fun!

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## Dolls House show was a great success

I am pleased to report that, once again, the Mid Glamorgan Dolls House and Miniaturists Group show in Cowbridge was a big success.

We had quite a good attendance, helped by advance publicity given by The GEM.

We are now able to send a cheque to the Noah's Ark Children's Hospital appeal for £1,100.

This sum has been rounded up with contributions from our club.

Once again, many thanks for your help in publicising our show.

ROBIN TYLER,  
(Hon Show Secretary).

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# Man brings the Bible to a digital audience

**FOR one Llantwit Major man, technology has finally caught up with an idea that he had many years ago.**

As a result, Chris Perry is producing a version of The Bible that is designed to be read and easily understood on an iPad.

To go with the words, he has also selected around 80 'inspirational photographs' - many taken here in the Vale.

Chris told The GEM: "I have long felt that, when people read the Bible for the first time, they are put off by all the headings, and by the way it is broken down into verses.

"I conceived the idea of an 'Uncluttered Bible' where the words flowed more easily. To do this, I removed the headings and verse numbers, and wrote short connecting pieces to link the prose."

He has even engaged Stephen Martin, a Welsh composer of praise and worship music, to provide background music.

It helps that Chris has spent most of his working life using up-to-date Information Technology, and has, indeed, been an IT trainer, working for clients such as Motorola, British Airways and the

MoD. He is now settled in Llantwit Major, having married Lyn, a Llantwit girl.

For Chris, who is now 58, the seeds of the idea were planted when he was 18, shortly after he embraced religion.

He said: "I was sitting in my parents' garden and became aware of the presence of God. It was as simple as that.

"My parents were not particularly religious, but my life changed from that moment."

Until then, the most unusual feature of Chris' life had been the amount of travelling he had done.

His father was an engineer who married a Bridgend beauty queen, and Chris was born in the town.

However, his father's work took him to South Africa for quite some time, and then on to various parts of India.

It was while they were in India that one remarkable thing happened. Chris' mother was returning home (with Chris) when they missed their flight.

That plane crashed and Mrs Perry, from that point on, insisted on travelling around the world by ship.

The family returned to Bridgend in the late 60s, taking a boat from South



ABOVE: Chris Perry, with his 'Uncluttered Bible' on his iPad.

Africa, and Chris went to Bridgend Boys Grammar School (now Brynteg Comprehensive).

Religion played little part in his life, and golf took up a fair bit of his time, as he made an early impact by winning the Glamorgan Boys Championship at the age of 15.

So, that religious experience in his garden at the age of 18 came right out of the blue but, when he studied the Bible, it set in motion an idea that has taken 40 years to come to fruition.

He said: "I was read-

script to clergymen, and the response was good. Chris said: "One pastor told me that he was seeing things from God's perspective in a way he had never seen before.

"I thought: 'Oh, something is happening here. It's not just an idea in my own heart and mind."

In 2007, he approached an American publishing company, who were keen, but there were funding and copyright issues.

This changed with the arrival of Apple's iPad, and Chris' Uncluttered Bible is now available, with the Book of John free so that readers can decide if they like it.

Chris said: "Anyone interested should go into iTunes and select iTunes Store, and then type in Uncluttered Bible.

"It will come up, either as the free download of the Gospel of John or Uncluttered Bible, which gives an option to download a free sample or the Uncluttered Bible onto their iPad."

For further information, e-mail: [chris@chrisperryconsultancy.com](mailto:chris@chrisperryconsultancy.com)

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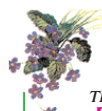


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# LLANTWIT 'ON THE UP' AND EXPECTING A BUMPER CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR

TRADERS in Llantwit Major are gearing up for a busy Christmas, including the customary light switch-on ceremony, as they believe the town is "on the up" - according to one who has invested in a new larger premises.

Llantwit is home to a host of stores offering a full range of special surprises for the loved ones in your life. Whether it's a unique gift for mum, a must-have accessory for the daughter, or even a home makeover for yourself, there is plenty of choice available.

The Sewing Box has recently moved to new premises on The Precinct and according to owner Stephen, it is: "To all intents and purposes a new shop - bigger, brighter and better".

Providing quality curtains and wool, their regular curtain suppliers such as Belford and Prestigious are now complemented by the likes of Sanderson and William Morris. Rowan Yarn also joins their full range of wool.

Stephen continued: "Llantwit is on the up, and that's why we invested in a new unit. We want to show our commitment to the people of Llantwit as we are very grateful."

"We sell the same curtains and wool as the supermarkets, but cheaper. We check prices locally and online, and this is to reward customer loyalty - our all-year-round special offer."

They also offer professional curtains and clothing alterations, and full home measuring and fittings - including 20 samples to peruse.

Another retailer with big news, Pastures Green, have just celebrated 25 years in business - "A great achievement in the current climate", according to owner Kathy.

They offer a full range of flowers and greenery, and a big range of Christmas features for the home, such as Yankee Candles and "very upmarket" Ashleigh and Burwood of London fragrance lamps.

Part of the Interflora setup, they can deliver anywhere in the world, and there is plenty to calm husbands hunting



Kayleigh Granelli, Gordon Taylor and Hollie Billington don their pyjamas to New Hope for Children in Need.

for their wives and business owners wishing to thank their staff.

Kathy added: "We would really like to thank the local community for all their support over the past 25 years."

If unique is what you are looking for, then House Envy could be the place for you. Whether you are "keeping ahead of the trends" or looking for that rustic feel, this modern-looking venue in Boverton (opposite the Boverton Castle pub) could be right up your street.

There's Scandinavian 'Nordic-style' Christmas decorations, or 'Cable and Cotton' lights, where

you choose the coloured cotton balls you want and add to the cable to create the mood you require.

Culinary and kitchenware has a rustic feel, while the lighting and cushions available can spruce up any home. The fantastic range of men's gifts includes books, clocks, cocktail shakers, flasks, beer holders and cufflinks. As owner Nicola says: "We're not just a girly shop!"

"Regulars come in knowing I am an interior journalist and they can ask advice and pick my brains. All the brands we sell I've known and

written on for years so we have really good relationships with them."

House Envy are also trying to get their new website live as soon as possible, so keep an eye out!

Alternatively, why not spruce up your home, or that of a close acquaintance? Elaine Jones Interiors are new in town and here to help out.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 18



Janet and John Moisan have had a huge hand in planning the big lights switch-on again this year.

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**Christmas Markets**

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**Bath**

Bath Christmas Market 130 quaint wooden stalls line the squares and streets surrounding the impressive Bath Abbey, selling everything you could possibly need for your festive celebrations. With designer boutiques all around, you can't fail to find everything you are looking for.

**Birmingham** Celebrating its 10th anniversary, Birmingham's Frankfurt Christmas Market has become a huge favourite with both residents and visitors to the city from all over the UK and Europe. Combined with the city's own Christmas Craft Fair of local traders, it offers a total of over 180 stalls to browse and enjoy.

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# Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## Llantwit has plenty to offer

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Located on Wine Street, just past The Old Swan and The White Hart, there are lots of gift ideas – vouchers, lighting, hand-made curtains and blinds, lamps – anything for the home from small decorations to a re-design: accessories “to bring the style home”, as Elaine puts it.

“We’re in the heart of old Llantwit. It’s a bit of a fancy shop – looks old fashioned from the outside but with a modern feel.”

A showroom more than a shop, it is open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, while the rest of the week Elaine can be found in clients’ houses via appointments – checking what they want and discussing how to do it.

She has a ‘fabric library’ available to find material/mirrors/lighting customers want, and takes them in to the

home to check they are suitable.

Elaine will be hosting a ‘Christmas gift open weekend’ on Friday and Saturday, November 30–December 1, with late opening on Thursday, November 29, so pop in and see what she can do for your home – drinks and nibbles available.

For the IT lovers in your life, **PC of Mind** stock a range of tablets ready for Christmas – the “in thing” this year according to owner Richard Steele.

The Windows 8 operating system is also expected to be a hit this year, with the shop offering Windows 7 or 8 on all new towers – as it is “very fast”, and it’s a good idea to “upgrade from Vista because it’s very cheap at the moment”.

They also make towers for gaming lovers, can source parts for custom-made PCs, and there is also a full range



Nicky Foster with Health Conscious' range of chocolate Christmas treats.

of repairs offered on PCs and laptops.

**Health Conscious** offer a range of chocolates – Fairtrade, Vegan, soya-free, gluten-free and dairy-free – for the sweet-toothed members of the family, while their Christmas bathing essential gift sets are Parabens-free and Sodium Laurel Sulphate-free.

As owner Nicky says, they’re: “Natural things without any nasties”.

Nicky can also offer advice on how to stay healthy over the festive period, so pop in to find out how.

Fashion fiends need look no further than **Rio** – who offer their usual vast range of garments, complemented by a tremendous amount of gifts and accessories – sterling silver, jewellery, handbags, purses and scarves.

Knitwear can provide the perfect gift for grandparents, with “pretty-coloured jumpers and cardigans” being popular as “we don’t do black”, according to owner Tina Morgan.

There are also furs and leather coats, which are: “beautiful as big gifts”.

If you fancy nourishment after all that shopping, head down to **Illtud's 216** on Church Street. They offer two-course or three-course options on food for Christmas parties; customers can also pop in off the street to take advantage of their festive delights.

On Christmas Day they will be offering a five-course Gala lunch, while New Year’s Eve sees a disco and buffet made available, with Georg and Einar welcoming all with a DJ, prizes and quiz taking place.

This year, the big light switch-on takes place on December 8, in the old town around the Cenotaph between 3pm and 6pm, when the lights are switched on.

Organised by the Llantwit Major Illuminations Committee, sponsored by the Vale Council and the town council, plus a grant from Community Chest, and a partnership between the town council and the Chamber of Trade, there will be entertainment from 4pm-6pm, and stalls in the town hall selling festive home-made gifts and promoting charities and small societies.

CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 19



Richard and Craig of PC of Mind.



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# Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## CHRISTMAS IN LLANTWIT



Pastures Green proprietors Kathy Coates and daughter Joanne David are celebrating their 25th anniversary this week!

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### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

There is a minimal charge for stalls, and anyone is welcome to have one.

The lantern parade will take place at 5.30pm, walking from the rugby club to the town, sponsored by the illuminations committee. It will be in aid of cystic fibrosis, and supervised by police.

Lantern workshops take place on December 2, and you can email Lucy Thomas at: nowmrstomas@btinternet.com for more information.

The town's Christmas tree will be sited in the town square near the Old White Hart public house; donated by the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Stagedoor 1 have been confirmed to perform, while other choirs will also hopefully be performing. Santa will be in his grotto in The Old White Hart, made possible by Graham Morgan, with soup available.

A grant from HSBC has also enabled the purchasing of new lights –

arranged by Vale MP Alun Cairns.

Young racing 'celebrity' Nancy Thomas, a regular in the pages of The GEM, with her father pushing her buggy around various courses, will be switching the lights on this year.

Contact Janet Moisan on 07845 161643 for more information and to book a stall.

The Swan Inn will also be prominent in the switch-on, hosting stalls in their beer garden, and providing a hog roast and mulled wine.

They are helping to provide a stage for live music with The White Hart, and are arranging live music in the evening after the lights come on.

They are currently taking Christmas bookings for groups, couples and families, and are open between 12 noon and 2pm on Christmas Day to serve drinks only. Then comes their famed Irish brunch on Boxing Day for those who don't want to step into the kitchen again.

**CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 20**



The Sewing Box welcomes some new top brands to their new store on The Precinct.



Tina Morgan at Rio Ladies Fashions.

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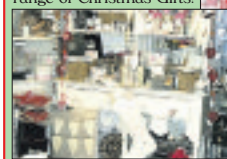
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# Llantwit Major Limelight This Christmas

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



The new wool range in The Sewing Box.



Elaine Jones Interiors, at 4 Wine Street in old Llantwit, hosts a 'fabric library' where customers can search for exactly what they require.

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19**  
Bookings are taken already, with customers advised to book early due to popular demand.

Manager Sean Murphy would like to thank his customers for their continued support – and wish everyone a "Merry Christmas".  
For something a little different, there is also the **New Hope** charity shop, who have organised a Christmas draw – "Guess My Name".

The lucky winner will receive a £50 cash prize and, of course, the soft toy dog!

Owner Gordon said: "We are hoping to repeat this in the new year on a monthly basis, starting off with a £100 cash prize. If successful, we hope to increase that."

On Friday November 16, for Children in

Need, some staff had a pyjama day and donated the takings to the charity. This came to £196.40; however, that wasn't enough for New Hope, who matched it and rounded it up to £400.

ABOVE:  
Sarah Thomas of The Flower Shop, which also has an array of gifts this season.

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NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT  
EAGLESWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## From tiny acorns...

THE arrival of 60 trees from the Woodlands Trust during the first week of this half term proved to be the perfect spring-board to re-launch our school bid for the Eco Schools Green Flag award.

The school registered with the Woodlands Trust earlier in the year, and cherry, rowan and birch trees were delivered to develop a copse.

Pupils from the nursery right up to year-6 planted the saplings to coincide with World Day of Action.

Also, the school's nurture group, Eco Eagles, and our after school club planted saplings. The pupils will care for the trees for the next two years, finding out a wide variety of information, including growing conditions, leaf structure and habitats.

After the two years is up, we hope to transplant these trees into the local community to enhance our landscape.

Many of our former pupils will have fond memories of planting trees in the Lorna Hughes Memorial Park. As well as those three varieties, an oak sapling, grown from an acorn harvested from the Royal Grounds, was planted by the head-teacher, Mr Watkins.

Eagleswell Primary School is hoping to be taking delivery of a further 60 trees in March, in order to develop a hedgerow to attract wildlife into the school grounds.

Many thanks to the Woodlands Trust for supplying the trees, and to Nicola Richards and Cath Miles for all their help with the planting.

Part of the Eco Schools Green Flag status application process involved the selection of a new eco committee.

Pupils from year-2 to year-6 had to show how committed they were to further promoting the Eco Schools' message. Year 3-6 pupils had to complete application forms, outlining the qualities they felt were important to being part of the committee, and what they would like to achieve in their role as members.

**'Switch Off Fortnight'**  
WE are currently undertaking a number of projects, including 'Switch Off Fortnight' and 'Goodbye to Standby'.

Switch Off Fortnight is a national initiative highlighting the fact that if we all used less electricity, less greenhouse gases would be produced in order to supply that electricity. It began on Monday (November 19), and runs until Sunday, December 2.



A pupil enjoys her tree planting.

Assemblies at foundation phase and at Key Stage two highlighted the ways in which we can see the effects of climate change and global warming.

Examples of renewable energy were discussed, including whether we could have solar power for our school.

All pupils are taking part in a project to try to reduce the amount of electricity that is wasted, both in school and at home. And, of course, it's cheaper too!

**Children in Need On Friday, November 16, Eagleswell pupils arrived in an array of outfits, including pyjamas, football kits and favourite superheroes in aid of BBC Children in Need.**

Pupils brought in bags of pennies and tuppennies to place along corridors and walkways to create 'a mile of pennies'.

More than £200 was raised. Many thanks to the pupils and parents from Pudsey!

**Road safety week**

Last week, Mr John Rogers from the Vale Road Safety department came in to present uniforms and badges to this year's junior road safety officers (JRSOs).

Pupils from year-5 and 6 were given the opportunity to apply. Five pupils were chosen; two from year-6 – Georgia Bingham and Jessica Fitzpatrick, and three from year-5 – Sean Renee, Libby Clarke and Tahnee Farman.

Mr Rogers and Mrs Richardson, our JRSO co-ordinator, presented the JRSOs with their name badges, high visibility vests and a new addition for this year – woolly hats.

To coincide with road safety week, the JRSOs spoke in assembly, raising the awareness of staying safe on the roads, especially as it gets dark earlier.

Many thanks to both Mr Rogers and Mrs Richardson.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## How to visit Santa on Reindeer Day

THIS Sunday's Reindeer Parade in Cowbridge has made a small change to the way Santa's Grotto will operate.

Because the attraction has been so popular in recent years, organisers have decided that to avoid long queues, access to Santa's Grotto will be by ticket only.

A spokesman for Cowbridge and Llantwit Major Lions, who organise the grotto, explained: "The free tickets can be collected at the west entrance to the town hall on a 'first come first served' basis

from 11am on the day.

"Each ticket will grant access to one family but don't delay, as the number of tickets is strictly limited, since Santa can only stay for a short time.

"Santa will be in his Grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm and tickets will be allocated for slots between these times.

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience, a generous donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

### WHAT'S ON

**SONGWRITER**, acoustic and electric guitarist, harmonica player and singer, **Eddie Martin**, who has been described as the "most remarkable blues man of his generation", appears at *The King William IV* in Barry at 8pm on Saturday (November 24).

### School fayre

**ROMILLY Primary School** on Romilly Road, Barry, is holding its Christmas fayre on Saturday, November 24 (1pm-4pm), when Santa will be visiting, and there will be funfair games, raffles, bouncy castle, craft stalls and refreshments.

All proceeds go towards items for the school, everyone is welcome.

### Mount Pleasant table top sale

A TABLE top sale will take place at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Cadoston, Barry, on Saturday, November 24 from 2pm-4pm.

Admission is free with free refreshments. Money raised will be given to friends and neighbours in the area who are struggling at this difficult time.

Come and bag a bargain (perhaps a Christmas present!).

### Valeways walks

ON Sunday, November 25 at 2pm, 'War bunkers and coastal path', starting at Cosmeston Country Park outside the visitor centre.

### Choir coffee

**BARRY Ladies Choir** will benefit from the Mayor of the Vale's charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, November 27 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

### Age Concern jumble sale

**AGE CONCERN** Cardiff and the Vale will be holding a fundraising jumble sale on Wednesday, November 28, 2pm-5.30pm at the Mackintosh Church (The Mack), 61-63 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff (Albany Road junction).

All are welcome; come along, pick up a bargain and support our local charity.

There will be a huge selection of goods on offer, including quality second hand clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, plus an area dedicated to vintage items.

For more information, contact 02920 683604 or 07584 346015.

### Pothole fillers!

**THE Vale Council's BIG Fill** campaign will be in Castledand ward, Barry, on November 24 - 25, and residents can report potholes until November 23.

Phone the council on 01446 700111 or email: thebigfill@vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk

### Christmas fayre

**ST BRIDGET'S Church**, St Brides Major, is holding its Christmas fayre at Church Hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major, this Saturday, November 24, from 10am to 12 noon.

Among the many attractions will be a cake stall, tombola, bottle stall, Christmas cards and gifts, arts and crafts stalls, games and a prize draw for a Christmas hamper.

### Praying together

**AS Crossway Methodist Church** nears the end of its 50th anniversary year, it is holding an afternoon of prayer this Saturday, November 24, from 1.30pm to 4.30pm, for

church members to offer prayers of thanksgiving to God, and for others to explore prayer.

Visitors can light a candle in memory of loved ones.

For more information, contact Rev Peter Taylor on 01446 406262 or: revpete@live.co.uk.

This Sunday, November 25, at 6pm, the annual visit of Barry Male Voice Choir takes place at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road.

### School's fayre

**BARRY High Street Primary School** is holding its Christmas fayre on Friday, November 30.

There will be a variety of stalls, bric-a-brac, crafts, bouncy castle, face painting, nail painting, cake stall, as well as Santa's Grotto.

There will also be refreshments on sale. The event will take place after school, from 3pm onwards.

### Charity coffee

**COWBRIDGE 'Stitch and Bitch' group** is holding a coffee morning and Christmas craft sale on Saturday, December 8, at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall, from 11am to 2pm.

All proceeds will be donated to Y Bwthyn Hospice, Bridgend.

### Woodturners' skills on show

**THE Vale Woodturners'** Christmas fair will be held at Bonvilston Reading Rooms, Bonvilston, on Saturday, December 8, 10am-4pm.

On sale will be crafted wooden gifts, and there will be woodturning demonstrations. Free entry and parking.



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## SPOOKY TALES HAUNT SULLY AND SWANBRIDGE!

**THE hamlet of Swanbridge lies on the coast overlooking the Bristol Channel, four miles south of Penarth.**

It is unclear where the name Swanbridge originates from; but it was at one time a working harbour, as documents from the 16th Century specify that skippers of boats were obliged to pay a levy to local officials for transporting their wares from distant shores into the port.

In 1569, 2,000 blocks of cheese and 80 barrels of butter were impounded by an official as the captain of the vessel from Penarth had not paid his duty tax.

The harbour (or creek as it is sometimes known) also acquired unwelcome immigrants from shores beyond the Channel. Goods, both for import and export, were transported to neighbouring towns and villages via St Mary's Well Road.

Iron mooring rings can still be seen on the eastern side of the bay, as a reminder of the trades of days gone by.

Swanbridge became linked to other destinations around the area by the Taff Vale Railway line, where its people could travel in style to other destinations around the country.

Swanbridge Halt was built in 1890, but became another victim of the Beeching axe in 1968, and was left abandoned,

or bought by businesses who sold its rail tracks for scrap.

Archaeologists unearthed evidence of Roman and Viking visitation and a Bronze Age fort with a stronghold barrow in the area. A Danish Iron Age buttress, which occupied the eastern side of the island, together with the Bronze Age barrow and post medieval port on the northeastern side, were all then listed as monumental landmarks.

Across the foreshore of Swanbridge, lies the island of Sully, which is only accessible via the causeway and can be cut off by the rapid incoming tide. Thought to mean 'South Lea or Pasture', it gets its name from the Norman Knight Reginald de Sully from Devon, who built a small fortress on the island for protection against pirates. Today, the remains of a small wall are the only evidence of its existence.

Sully Island had become a haunt for pirates, with Alfredo De Marisco, the Norman pirate known as 'The Night Hawk' based here in the 13th Century. This was the beginning of the notorious smuggling trade.

By 1330, Lords of Avan (d'Avene) had purchased the island, and in 1348, Hugh le Despenser, Lord of Glamorgan, acquired the land.

Later, the islet was sold to Sir Thomas Stradling, an upstanding

citizen throughout the whole community of Glamorgan at the time.

Sully's most famous ship wreck was the SY (Survey Yacht) Scotia. This ship originated as a sealer vessel named Hekla from Norway.

Its captain was Tam Robertson and during the Great War, the vessel became a freighter, which unfortunately caught fire around Sully Island. Its diminished keel then sank into the depths of the hungry sea.

Sully Church is dedicated to St John the Baptist, and stands on an ancient edifice containing a silver chalice dating from 1567. The church became a listed building on January 22, 2000.

The Captain's Wife is a public house at Swanbridge, haunted by the wife of a ship's captain. It once spanned three cottages to house fishermen, sailors and their families.

Appropriately, it was named Sully House as it overlooks the harbour and Sully Island. This 'watering hole' and restaurant opened its doors for trade in 1977.

Legend maintains that Captain Winstanley was commanded to sail on a voyage to Jamaica by his lover's disapproving father. His daughter was then forced to marry

Colonel Rhys, a man with an upstanding position. The marriage was not a success because his wife pined for her lover.

So, when Captain Winstanley returned

from his expedition, secret meetings were arranged for the lovers, only for them to be discovered.

Colonel Rhys was killed in a duel between the rivals and the lovers then eloped together at sea, but were burnt alive in a fire in their cabin.

*She is said to haunt the house that she shared with her husband, in search of her true love.*

Another twist on this legendary tale involves a captain taking his wife on a voyage where she died of a fever en route. Not to arouse suspicion, he placed his wife's corpse in a lead-lined box. On return to Swanbridge, he buried her remains in the woods.

The coffin was subsequently stolen, denying her a Christian burial, and her soul of unrest haunts the building, with her hazy image reported to stalk the floorsboards wearing a black dress.

Another account of this sinister tale claims that the captain rowed his deceased wife ashore at the dead of night and hid her body within the house, from where it was stolen.

When the building was renovated, the eerie discovery of a skeleton was unearthed in the woods behind the abode.

Could this fearful find be the remains of the Captain's wife? *But which version is true?*

**HAYLEY WILLIAMS**  
[hayley.williams550@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hayley.williams550@yahoo.co.uk)

# Christmas in Bridgend

And some of the treats in store for you...

**Saturday 1st December**

- 11.30am Visit Santa Claus and his Reindeer (DUNRAVEN PLACE)
- 4.30pm Watch the switch on of the Christmas lights and Carol singing around the Christmas Tree (QUEEN ST)

**6th, 7th & 8th December**

- 11am-5pm Shop at the Craft and Food Christmas Markets (CAROLINE ST)

**Saturday 8th December**

- 11am-4pm Ride the Christmas Express (QUEEN ST)

**Saturday 15th December**

- 2pm Elf activities and World Records (ADARE ST)

for more information  
call 01656 786639  
or visit  
[bridgendtowncentre.com](http://bridgendtowncentre.com)

**FREE**  
Christmas parking  
After 2pm between Monday 10th to Saturday 15th December  
After 10am between Monday 17th to Saturday 22nd December  
After 10am Monday 24th December. Bridgend Only - All day at the council's Sunnyside offices on Saturday 8th, 15th and 22nd December

# WORLD RECORD GATHERING OF ELVES

ADARE ST, BRIDGEND

2PM, 15 DECEMBER 2012

**the elf kit - it's easy peasy!**

**... and we supply the hat**

**red or green jumper**

Ever seen the streets full of Christmas elves? No? Then join us at the Bridgend Elf-stedford for the annual gathering of elves. Last year we topped 1000 elves. This year we are hoping to reach at least 1200! The day will be filled with elf activity and will give you a chance to win a prize in our Elf Prize Draw. If you have an elf costume, fantastic! If not, and you still want to join in the fun, put on something red or green and we will supply you with a hat!

**WANTED 1,200 ELVES**

Speak to other elves on facebook



Time to take a closer look at the...

# Mughal

emperor of Cowbridge

Renowned Indian Cuisine, Restaurant & Takeaway

## Mughal Emperor picks up national award for its high quality dining experience



**INTIMATE**  
tables for 2



**PRIVACY**  
booths for 4-6



**SPACIOUS**  
for group dining



### MINGLE...



### MUSE...



### RELAX...



### UNWIND...



One of the Vale's best known restaurants has two reasons to celebrate.

First, the Mughal Emperor, which is on Stalling Down, just outside Cowbridge, was recently singled out for a 'Highly Commended' award in the 2012 Tiffin Cup – a prestigious UK-wide competition involving the best South Asian restaurants.

In addition, the restaurant, which has been attracting customers from far and wide for more than 20 years – all under the same management – has just been refurbished to give the interior a brand new look.

The Mughal's longevity is clearly due to it being a family affair, as it is run by Mr Anhar Miah, with his brother Asad, and it operates on a tried and tested formula.

And there is nothing complicated about that formula, because the Mughal believes in the virtues of good, fresh ingredients, expertly cooked by skilled chefs, served by experienced



Mr Asad Miah, chef Shelim Ahmed and Alun Cairns MP.

staff – and all at a competitive price. Asad Miah said: "We have customers who come to us from Swansea in the west and from Cardiff in the east, because they consistently get quality food here.

"What is particularly pleasing is that they often bring friends with them, because they enjoy eating here and want to share the experience."

The new refurbishment, Mr Miah believes, will enhance that experience. The aim was to give the interior a more contemporary feel, but still keep the Mughal's strongest points.

The result is a spacious dining and reception area, with none of the tables too close together, and space to enjoy a drink before your meal.

The aim is to encourage diners to take their time over their meal and fully enjoy the evening. As the staff pride themselves on their knowledge and experience, there is plenty of time for customers to ask questions.

Someone new to Indian cuisine can be guided through their meal, while regular diners can discuss the finer points with staff who know their stuff. Mr Miah said that they weren't prepared to cut corners when it came to quality.

He said: "We don't make things in bulk and store them. We use small



**YOUR TABLE**  
awaits...



quantities on the night so that the dish is as fresh as possible."

The menu also contains a number of chef's recommendations, which are updated on a regular basis.

It was Vale MP Alun Cairns who nominated the Mughal Emperor to compete in the Tiffin Cup.

He said: "I am delighted that The Mughal Emperor in Cowbridge was Highly Commended in this year's Tiffin Cup.

"It is such a prestigious competition, and to be honoured in this way is testament to the fantastic efforts of Mr Miah, the manager and all the staff at the Mughal."

Mr Cairns visited The Mughal in Cowbridge to present the chef and team with a certificate and embroidered Tiffin Cup 2012 chef jacket to mark their achievement.

The Mughal Emperor has maintained its high reputation through concentrating on the old-fashioned virtues of quality and consistency, and the judges in the Tiffin Cup clearly agreed!

Opening hours: Lunchtime Monday-Saturday 12 noon-2pm. Evening Monday-Sunday 6pm-12 midnight.

Catering for parties up to 120

Stalling Down, Cowbridge CF71 7DT - 01446 774938 or 775887

www.mughalempor.co.uk



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FROM HER HIT MUSICALS

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THUR 18 APR @ 7.30



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MEDIUM

SAT 2 MAR @ 7.30



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& FUN

FRI 25 JAN @ 7.30

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WRESTLING - LIVE!



SAT 16 FEB @ 7.00

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a magical tale with music and  
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WED 12 DEC @ 10.30

WED 12 DEC @ 1.30

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FRI 21 DEC @ 7.30

SAT 22 DEC @ 2.30

SUN 23 DEC @ 2.30



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CANADIAN  
BLUES  
SINGER &  
GUITARIST

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# A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



## Strong, independent businesses provide the service people love

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46 Holton Road, Barry CF6 4HD

**L**A CUCINA coffee house and restaurant is emblematic of strong, independent businesses that are the cornerstone of a successful and vibrant shopping area.

The owner, Ferda, told The GEM: "We've been in Barry for 10 years now – four years in High Street, followed by six years in Holton Road."

"La Cucina provides a relaxed, friendly, welcoming atmosphere and people enjoy the fact that we provide continuity in the local area. We are not a 'here-today-gone-tomorrow' business."

"People recognise us as an authentic Barry business, and I'd like to thank our many regulars for their custom." For office workers

or shoppers who want a snack or a meal, it is the ideal port of call.

The choice is bewildering – coffees, lattes, cappuccinos, teas, soft drinks, milkshakes, iced teas, sandwiches with side salads, soups, paninis, jacket meals, homemade lasagne, chilli con carne, spaghetti bolognese, meat balls, chocolate cake, lemon drizzle cake, almond tart – and that's just a small selection of what's on offer!

Ferda added: "People appreciate that La Cucina provides consistent, high quality food that is reasonably priced, and served in a spotless environment."

**SPECIALIST**  
Just around the corner Pets R Us, on Regent Street, remains the essential destination for Barry's animal lovers.

Steve Lane, the owner, explained that part of the reason for the shop's continued success was that the staff all have specialist knowledge in the products on sale.

"We are all enthusiastic and qualified in giving pet nutrition advice – all of the staff own animals themselves, whether it is a dog, a cat or another kind of animal."

The store is the official stockist for a number of premium dog foods such as Royal Canin, James Wellbeloved, Burns, Proplan and Hills Science Plan, and provides a dog grooming service.

At Christmas it is the 'go to' place for pet lovers with a huge selection of treats, toys, and even doggy Christmas cards!

Steve also deals in exotic pets and sells tropical and cold-water fish, snakes, lizards, hamsters, and tortoises, along with the necessary food supplies. The tropical fish section is particularly

impressive and specialist advice is provided by Kevin Jones and Ben Taplin.

Kevin said: "It's easy for people to pick a tank that's suitable for them – we stock all the heaters, pumps and lighting to go with them. We also do aquarium plants."

"People can then select the Malawi cichlids, 'oddballs and rarities' they want."

The great thing about having a tropical fish tank is the sense of peace and calm it provides in a house.

Another 'hardy perennial' at Upper Holton Road is JPL Sound - The Barry Music Shop – as well known throughout south Wales as it is in its home town.

John Lewis and his staff provide expert advice on all things musical and also travel far and wide providing stages, sound systems and lighting for dozens of events.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)



ABOVE:

La Cucina, owned by Ferda, is a popular independent coffee house and eatery favoured by visitors to Holton Road.

**1st Choice APPLIANCE & COOKWARE CENTRE**  
PREMIUM QUALITY BRANDS AT THE LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES

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# Have a Merry Barry Christmas!

**FREE events for all the family!**

## LIGHT UP THE SQUARE

KING SQUARE, BARRY, FRI 30 NOVEMBER, 3PM - 6.30PM

Enjoy live music from 'All That Jazz', 'Oyster Opera' and 'Yuletide Rocks' along with the Christmas street entertainers. Some of the Vale of Glamorgan's London 2012 Olympic torchbearers will be turning on the town's Christmas lights on the Square and on the Christmas tree at 6pm. The evening will finish with 'NU Cracker', a festive performance from 'Motion Control Dance' - a modern remake of the traditional ballet story.

## LET IT SNOW!

CENTRAL PARK, BARRY, SAT 15 DECEMBER, 10AM - 3PM

For one day only, Santa and his reindeer will be coming to town. The park will become a festive arena complete with snow, ice sculptures and live music. The day will also feature 'The Christmas Storytelling Tent', a beautiful festive puppet show especially suitable for younger children.



For further details please call 01446 704737 or visit [www.visitthevale.com](http://www.visitthevale.com), while you can also keep up to date with local events news by following @visitthevale on Twitter!




## A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

John has provided sound for the Barry Firework Fiesta for 39 years!

If your son or daughter is keen on a musical instrument for Christmas, JPL Sound is the best place to go because, unlike online retailers, John or a member of staff will offer expert advice and help when the present arrives at the shop, to make sure it is perfect for Christmas Day.

A few doors away, Morgan Davies Tattoos can provide a Christmas present with a difference.

Morgan said: "I do a wide selection of tattoos and they work out at £100 for three hours work.

"If requested, I can do an evening session.

People can bring in a design they are keen on too.

"If people want more information, they should go to [facebook.com/morganjohndavies](http://facebook.com/morganjohndavies)."



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## A 'four-star salon'

**HQ<sup>2</sup> The Salon** has been open on Holton Road for 10 years and has been rated a four-star salon by The Good Salon Guide.

HQ<sup>2</sup> can boast four qualified stylists to the highest level, and with regular updated training they can offer the best in precision cutting, colouring, foils and hair up.

Look your best for the party season!

HQ<sup>2</sup> have a range of practical gifts for Christmas, Ghd hair straighteners, Tigi hair products and gift vouchers - gifts that really will be appreciated by your loved ones.



Manageress Jaydene Vaughan of HQ<sup>2</sup> welcomes customers this Christmas.

## WINDSOR HOTEL

Friday 23rd November  
**Live Singer 6pm-9pm**  
Saturday 24th November  
**Wales v New Zealand 5pm**  
Free Beef Curry & Chips at Half Time  
Sunday 25th November  
**Luke Doherty Band**  
Live at 6pm  
Sunday 2nd December  
**The Navigators**  
Sunday 9th December  
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Sunday 16th December  
**Freeway**

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# A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



## BARRY ENTREPRENEURS ADD A NEW SPARK TO HOLTON ROAD SHOPPING

**L**OCAL entrepreneurs are drawn to Holton Road because for more than a century it has been the main artery for business in the town.

As Christmas

approaches two new shops have opened – reinforcing the area's reputation for variety.

On Saturday, November 17, Retro Vibe Music, run by Claire Williams and Mark Owen, opened its doors to an enthusiastic Barry public.

Claire said: "As we were preparing the unit to start trading, people were knocking on the window wondering whether we were open yet or not. That's how enthusiastic people were to get in and look at what we stock."

Retro Vibe Music started on Vere Street, supplying people over the internet, but also operating as



ABOVE: Jay Lewis of Fresh-X-Press.

a retail location.

Claire and Mark are keeping Vere Street as a base for stock and Holton Road is now their 'over-the-counter' arm of the business.

Just walking onto the premises, which sells vinyl records and CDs, is a trip down memory lane.

Beatles' LP covers jostle with Queen, who perch next to ELO, who... well you get the idea – although as Claire explained it's not just the 40-plus generation who love the nostalgic throwback nature of the venture.

"Often it's people in their twenties who

love coming in and seeing the iconic covers. Barry needs a record shop like this.

"We have both brand new and second hand stock – lots of potential Christmas gifts."

One of Claire and Mark's key aims is to maintain links with the strong local performing scene, publicising live musical events, and becoming

a local 'hub' for people who love music of whatever vintage.

Is there a golden record or CD that you were desperate to track down? Then get down to Retro Vibe Music – fast!

More information on the service provided by Claire and Mark is available at: [www.Retro-vibemusic.com](http://www.Retro-vibemusic.com).

Just a few doors away, Fresh-X-Press is owned by local man Jay Lewis.

The shop has a distinctive green livery, emphasising the 'fresh' food on offer. It's the ideal destination for local office and shop workers who want to choose from the salad bar, enjoy a baguette, a snack, a cake or a drink. The salad bar starts at just £2 –

great value.

Jay, who is Barry born and bred, said: "We will even deliver in Barry for a minimum order of £5 and have already taken some big orders in the town."

The premises are welcoming, spacious and light.

Jay added: "It is all open plan and people can see the food being prepared."

All three entrepreneurs had one thing in common: they were determined to make a success of the businesses and keen to provide the best service to their clientele.



ABOVE: Claire Williams of Retro Vibe Music is bringing musical nostalgia to Holton Road.

### THE OLD POST OFFICE Coffee Shop

#### Small Breakfast

5 items, coffee or tea, and toast £3.95

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### THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

## CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS - KING'S SQUARE, BARRY

FRIDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to participate in the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be Closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00

#### Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 30th November 2012	The area to be closed is Holton Road Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street.	18.00 – 20.00

Local signed diversions shall be in place.  
Access for Pedestrians shall be maintained.

Dated this 22nd day of November 2012

M. E. Punter, Director of Visible Services & Housing  
Vale of Glamorgan Council,  
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



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# A FESTIVE LOOK AT HOLTON ROAD



## Tiffin Rasoi in line for two prestigious national awards!

ONE of Barry's highly rated Indian takeaways, Tiffin Rasoi located on 37 Holton Road, has been short-listed for the British Curry Awards 2012 and the Asian Curry Awards 2012.

A spokesman for the company said: "Tiffin Rasoi is a premier Indian takeaway offering Indian food with no artificial colours or flavours.

"The menu integrates both traditional favourites with new and creative dishes which are freshly prepared.

"We are looking forward to the results of the Asian Curry Awards, which will be announced at The Great Room, in the JW Marriott Hotel, Park Lane, London, this

Sunday, November 25."

Guests will join hundreds of leading restaurateurs and caterers under the spotlight of international TV, and rub shoulders with VIPs, politicians, business leaders and celebrities.

The results of the British Curry Awards will be announced at a glittering black tie gala dinner at one of London's biggest and most prestigious venues, Battersea Evolution in Battersea Park Lane, on Monday November 26.

The event will be broadcast to more than 200 countries through Star Plus, BBC and other channels.

Tiffin Rasoi, 37 Holton Road, Barry. www.tiffinrasoi.com

## Old Post Office now a popular coffee shop

Hannah Andrews and Lisa Eveleigh pride themselves on the community atmosphere in 'The Old Post Office Coffee Shop'.

THE Old Post Office Coffee Shop has made a huge impression on Upper Holton Road, since opening in May this year.

The owner Lisa Eveleigh is keen to make the shop a community hub, where people can meet up with a friend, or as part of a group, and have a meal or a snack. It's hardly a surprise



that in a few short months it has become so popular. Lisa explained: "We've already developed a regular clientele – many love our five-item breakfast for £3.95,

with tea or coffee and toast, and the £5.50 one with nine items and a drink and toast!

"We pride ourselves on the friendly, welcoming atmosphere – it's a real family-run business."

This week Lisa and the staff are putting up decorations for Christmas and promise some special festive puddings and cakes over the next few weeks.

The Old Post Office Coffee Shop used to be Weston Hill Post Office. Lisa opens at 8.30am – so make a date for breakfast, a snack or lunch – you won't be disappointed!



ABOVE: Kevin Jones and Ben Taplin provide great advice on tropical fish at Pets R Us.

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## FRIENDLY WELCOME ON HOLTON MILE



ABOVE: Morgan Davies provides a Christmas present with a difference – a tattoo. People can choose a design they like and book a session.



ABOVE: Yanie, of George's No 1 Barbers in Regent Street, promises some mince pies and nibbles in the lead-up to Christmas.

## EXCLUSIVE HAIR @ ANDREOUS

Andria, Maria, Natalie & girls would like to wish all their clients a Merry Christmas.

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Switching to winter tyres could dramatically increase your safety over the entire winter period and could even save you money. They're constructed to give you a much better grip, reducing your stopping distances on wet or icy roads. And because they are specially designed to operate in temperatures below 7°C, their wear rate is significantly better than normal 'summer' tyres in the colder winter months!

Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident
- 12% only narrowly avoided a collision.
- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

Let's put a stop to accidents this winter

These stopping distances prove you're less likely to get in a scrape if you switch to winter tyres.

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SUMMER TYRES	68m

BRAKING ON SNOWY ROADS FROM 30mph (48km/h) TO REST

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Sarah, Michelle and Sam of Fresh Hair have opened their new salon on Holton Road.

ABOVE: The Scented Garden provides bouquets and flower arrangements for family celebrations and special events – and has put on an impressive Christmas window to cheer people up this festive season.

**Coyotes Unisex Hair Salon**

Mel, Annisa and staff would like to welcome Bernice to Coyotes, formerly of Salon 23.

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## PTA's *The Master* a slow-burning piece of dramatic filmmaking

**H**AVING wowed audiences with *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, turned Adam Sandler into a straight actor in *Punch-Drunk Love*, and turned the phrase 'I drink your milkshake' into a harrowing declaration of intent in *There Will Be Blood*, the next movements of Paul Thomas Anderson were always going to be closely monitored, especially given the success afforded to ... *Blood*.

His follow-up, *The Master*, sees Philip Seymour Hoffman play Lancaster Dodd, the leader of a mysterious cult which draws in

drifting ex-serviceman Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix); but is the cult as it seems, and will Freddie be able to exist within it...?

It's unarguable that Paul Thomas Anderson is one of the most revered modern filmmakers working today. His Robert Altman-esque ability to create multi-strand narratives without losing focus, coupled with a Scorsese-like dexterity with the camera, means that he is truly an auteur in an age where the term is banded around a little too freely.

While his previous films all struck different notes, *The Master* is a film that is not tonally unfamiliar from *There Will Be Blood*; while that gothic masterpiece

is revered for searing performances and hard-edged dramatics, *The Master* strikes a little more softly, the film a slow-burner and one that will likely divide audiences between engrossing character study and mind-numbing pretension.

For this reviewer, it is closer to the former, PTA drawing vivid characters that are well inhabited by strong performances, yet the narrative feels a little too loose-fitting, its woozy (and in places boozy) aesthetic sometimes feeling somewhat unfocused, particularly over a running time of 144 minutes.

Yet the film's main drawing power is the time invested in the two leads, Freddie and Lancaster, two different men brought together by fate who then become inextricably connected.

The background to the relationship is loosely written; however, the exchanges between the two are so well-written that you can put that to the back of your mind and just savour the dialogue between them.

PTA's writing has always veered to the arch and so it continues here – great slabs of



by GARETH JAMIESON

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dialogue punctured with information, some of it relevant, some of it not – but when you see actors of this calibre delivering, it is a true pleasure indeed.

Much pre-release bluster claimed it was a film looking into the nature of cult itself, in particular Scientology, but this is a notion that simply exists on the fringes of the story – the focus on the central pair's relationship, and how they are seemingly polar opposites, yet are so engrossed in the other that ultimately they are two sides of the

same coin, and PTA draws this well.

Visually, the film is absolutely gorgeous, the camera bathing in the luxuriant colours of 1950s America and striking the right balance between beauty and excess, the camera-work matching the film's loose structure with its hazy imagery, while the story and characters are given central focus with the lead turns incredibly mesmerising.

Joaquin Phoenix's career may have had the odd up and down over the last few years, but the actor's performance here is wonderfully realised, the intensity and self-destructive nature of the character complementing the actor so well.

There is a controlled aggression to Phoenix's performance which makes him a loose cannon, and all the more entertaining to watch on screen, balancing wonderfully well with Philip Seymour Hoffman's Lancaster.

Seymour Hoffman has never been so light as he is here, the character of Dodd a well-meaning, slightly bumptious man who is called the master of the title, but who is controlled by

his wife and who feels more like a genial uncle than the leader of a cult.

Investing him with warmth and compassion, and showing the man behind the facade, he is hugely impressive, as is Amy Adams as the strong-willed wife who steers Lancaster through his darker moments.

With its slow pace and loose narrative, *The Master* certainly won't appeal to everybody, but fans of PTA, and those who enjoy something substantial without it being based on a comic book or a computer game, should find something here to enjoy.

**VERDICT:** An engaging, but loosely-told story, *The Master* is another strong Paul Thomas Anderson film but one that will no doubt divide viewers. While some may find it too ponderous, strong central performances from Joaquin Phoenix and Philip Seymour Hoffman and PTA's brand of writing and direction make it an impressive piece of work. **Recommended.**

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *There Will Be Blood* (2008), *Leaving Las Vegas* (1995).

## The police launch new website

**SOUTH Wales Police have launched a new website to keep the public up to date on news in the area.**

The website includes a number of features designed to publicise local and force-wide policing activities as well as provide practical information such as a postcode search to find your nearest police station and opening times.

The site is part of the force's commitment to improving accessibility to communities, maintaining transparency, and complements the force's five Twitter accounts which have a combined following of almost 25,000.

Chief Constable Peter Vaughan said: "As a police force we need to keep moving with the times and our new website will give people instant access to news and crime updates while at home, in work or on the move via smart phones."

"We wanted to create a site that puts the needs of the public first so we've made it easier to find and share information, whether that's the opening hours of police

stations, details about crime in specific areas, or news about people convicted in court.

Key features of the website [www.south-wales.police.uk](http://www.south-wales.police.uk) include:

- The latest news updates, with the option to receive RSS feeds;
- Behind Bars - a section which publicises recent court results;
- Wanted faces - appeals on people who are wanted for crimes;
- An improved freedom of information section which catalogues a comprehensive list of freedom of information disclosures.

### FESTIVE GATHERING

**THE Gathering Place in St Athan Christmas Jaye will be opened by BBC weatherman Derek Brockway on Saturday, December 1.**

Ladies barbershop group 'Cardiff Style' will be entertaining with Christmas songs, and there will be craft stalls selling jewellery, cards, books, baby clothes, homemade jams, cakes, Usborne books, bric-a-brac. Santa will pop in. Join in the fun from 12 noon - 3pm.

## Get jabbed!

**DIABETES UK Cymru is backing the Welsh Government's Get Jabbed campaign, aimed at getting everyone at high risk from flu to have their free vaccination.**

The flu jab is available in Wales from all GPs and, for the first time, at 137 selected pharmacies.

Those at risk include people with diabetes, those over 65 and in long term care, anyone with respiratory conditions, health professionals and pregnant women.

For more information, contact [www.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.wales.nhs.uk) and follow @getjabbed on Twitter.

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# Girls dominate Rotary young singer competition



First prize winner, Asha Fletcher Peters with John Clarke, president of the Rotary Club.

## Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Craig Reynolds – 11 Tennyson Road, Penarth – Proposed single storey side extension with disability access facilities, loft conversion and off road parking.

Mr A Paterson – 26 Birch Lane, The Paddocks, Penarth – Proposed two storey side extension.  
Mr and Mrs Mike Evans – 11 Whitcliffe Drive, Penarth – Extensions to existing property including remodelling of existing accommodation. New garage.

Mr P Fisher – Llansannor and Llanharry Junior and Infant School, Ystradowen – Single storey extension to the existing classroom block at Llansannor C/W Primary School.  
Mrs Christina Germon – 2 Cwrt Yr Iolo, Flemingston – Retain purpose built pigeon loft, replacing dilapidated structure.

Vijay Singh – Highbanks, Walston Road, Wenvoe – Remove ash tree.  
Fitz Project Management – Land rear of 2 Orchard Drive and Warwick Way, Barry – Yard to rear of 2 Orchard Drive; proposed lock up garages.

Mr David Curtis – 28 Smithies Avenue, Sully – Alteration and extension to an existing three bedroom single storey residential unit to create a four-bedroom two-storey residential property.

Mrs Anna Grant – 21 Herbert Street, Barry – Retrospective consent for existing garage (as extended in 2010).  
Mr Terry Donovan – 56 Redlands Road, Penarth – Conversion and extension of a detached garage to form a separate dwelling.  
J V Tree Services – Land at Coed Arthur, Llancafarn – Planning application for the construction of new forestry track.

Mr T Edgell – Llwynddu House, Welsh St Donats – Rear extension and alterations to facade.

Mr Duncan Barber – 1-3 Llandough Castle Flats, Llandough –

Demolition, alteration and extension works to apartment nos 1-3 Llandough Castle Flats. Llantwit Major Town Council – Lorna Hughes Park, High Street, Llantwit Major – Crown lifts to nine trees. Remove five trees (three silver birch, one cherry and one ash) and two self-sown sycamores.

Mr David Evans – 88 Lavernock Road, Penarth – Additional vehicular crossover to allow in and out use of front driveway.

Mr Roy Cook – 8 Beech Avenue, Ham Manor Park, Llantwit Major – Scots pine; either removal or 50 per cent reduction due to close proximity to property.  
Mr Michael Psaila – Upper Langeross Farm, Leckwith, Cardiff – Extension to caravan to provide extra bedroom.

Mr Thomas – 36 Rhose Road, Rhose – Single rear storey extension with access ramp to the front and new porch. With additional pedestrian access to the rear.

Mr Steve Sloman – Outside Green Close, Ffordd Yr Eglwys, Peterston Super Ely – Pollard ash tree.

Mr T Williams – Fommon Farm House, Barry –

Microgeneration domestic wind turbine in adjoining field.  
Mr Russell Hooper – The Stables, Village Farm, Marcross – Installing three solar panels (flush mounted) on roof of dwelling.

Mr Glyn George – Y Felin Fach, Monknash – Removal of Condition 5, variation of Condition 4 from application 2012/00560/FUL.

Mr Nigel Esterkin – 55 Holton Road, Barry – Change of use of upper floors, from office, to self contained residential flats.

**FOLLOWING the very successful instrumentalist competition on November 7, Llantwit Major Rotary Club ran its 'Young Musician' competition for vocalists.**

Although the instrumental competition has been running for a number of years, this was the first time for vocalists, and what an event it proved to be!

Held in Cowbridge Comprehensive, there were seven young ladies taking part (no boys, unfortunately) and they sang a very wide range of pieces.

Each of the competitors was required to perform two contrasting songs and they were judged on communication, presentation, technique and content.

Paige Sherreard started off the competition with 'Green Finch and Linnet Bird' from *Sweeney Todd* by Stephen Sondheim followed by 'Somebody Loved' by the Weepies. In the second of these, she was accompanied by her brother Ryan on the guitar.

Paige was followed by Ellie Williams with the well-known 'Somewhere' from *West*

*Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, then 'Till There Was You' from *Music Man* by Meredith Wilson.

Next, Sophie Thomas performed 'The Silver Swan' by Orlando Gibbons and 'Standchen' by Schubert.

She was followed by Charlotte Adams who sang 'I Attempt from Love's Sickness to Fly' by Purcell followed by 'My Ship' from *Lady in the Dark* by Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin.

Verity-Belle Atkinson was awarded third place with her rendition of the contrasting 'Panis Angelicus' by Cesar Franck and 'I Could Have Danced all Night' from *My Fair Lady* by Lerner and Loewe.

Olivia Hopper was placed second with two pieces from the musicals; 'Somewhere' from *West Side Story* by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim and 'Can't Help Lovin' dat Man' from *Showboat* by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein.

The judges were unanimous in placing Asha Fletcher Peters in first place with her wonderfully lyrical and dramatic performance of 'Green Finch and Linnet Bird' from *Sweeney Todd* and 'Daddy's Son'



**ABOVE:**  
The competitors

from *Ragtime* by Flaherty and Alen.

The panel of judges comprised Nic Treharne, formerly of BBC and HTV music departments, Helena Braithwaite, former county advisor for music and an experienced instrumentalist and conductor, and Iona Jones, professional soprano and president of Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) over three days, November 22-24.

A spokeswoman said: "The cast is composed entirely of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major residents. Theatre fans from Cowbridge and beyond are urged to support the theatre."

"Doors open at 7pm, leaving time for a drink at the bar before the curtain goes up at 7.30pm."

## Local theatre's latest show

**COWBRIDGE'S local theatre is putting on its final play of the year, and the first night is tonight.**

JB Priestley's drama-mystery, *Dangerous Corner*, will be staged at Cowbridge's Market Theatre (the official home of CADS, the Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) over three days, November 22-24.

A spokeswoman said: "The cast is composed entirely of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major residents. Theatre fans from Cowbridge and beyond are urged to support the theatre."

"Doors open at 7pm, leaving time for a drink at the bar before the curtain goes up at 7.30pm."

Tickets cost £6.50



Catrin Thomas-Price plays Olwen Peel.

from WG Davies *Newsagent's*, 38 Cowbridge High Street, or on the door.

To join CADS or find out more about the theatre, visit: [www.market-theatre.com](http://www.market-theatre.com), telephone the CADS chairman on 01446 772141, or Camilla on 07734 543928.

CADS is currently looking for more members, both in acting and non-acting roles.

## Eco-volunteers needed for litter-pick and tree planting

**RIGHT: Pictured with various dumped tyres and litter at their last litter-pick at White Farm are Couns Rob and Claire Curtis, Eira Powell, and Couns Margaret Wilkinson and Anthony Powell.**

**THE recently-formed White Farm Conservation Group are looking for eco-volunteers to help them plant fruit trees and carry out a litter pick in the valley adjacent to Whitewell Road this Saturday (November 24), meeting at 10.30am at the junction of Whitewell Road and Coleridge Crescent.**

All litter-picking equipment will be supplied but please wear appropriate clothing and boots.

More than 190 applicants from across Wales were successful in applying for free Homebase vouchers as part of Keep Wales Tidy's 'Have a Wild Weekend for Wales' campaign.

Funded by the Welsh Government, CCW and Homebase, the aim of the weekend-long campaign was to encourage groups to create new wildlife habitats to improve local biodiversity by undertaking small practical projects

to benefit native species. Volunteers from the White Farm Conservation Group were successful in applying for a £150 Homebase voucher, which they used to buy seven cherry, plum, apple and pear trees, as well as a number of bird nesting boxes for house sparrows, blue tits and kestrels.

During the 'Wild Weekend' they will plant the seven fruit trees along the boundary of White Farm at Whitewell Road and

erect bird nesting boxes in adjacent trees.

The fruit trees will provide nectar/pollen for bees and butterflies in the spring while providing free fruit in the autumn for local children. The nesting boxes will provide safe homes for a number of species of birds.

For more information on improving biodiversity in your area or other Keep Wales Tidy projects, email: [tidy.towns@keep-wales.org](mailto:tidy.towns@keep-wales.org).

Coun Rob Curtis



## YOUNGSTERS PROVE THEY'RE NOT YET BOARD OF GAMES...



**EIGHT boys from the junior section of the 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade Company took part in the Boys' Brigade in Wales' Board Games Competition on Friday, November 16 in Cardiff.**

This involved playing Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes, Connect Four and Draughts. Although the one team were unplaced, the other team won the trophy. A fantastic effort from all!

Thanks also to the parents who helped with transport – without them the boys could not have participated.

The whole company also attended the Remembrance Sunday parade and service on November 11 in Llantwit Major.



# Golf club's unique honour for a very special member

**PAULINE LEWIS** has been a member of RAF St Athan Golf Club since 1980, which in itself reflects loyalty to the club, and throughout this time she has been willing to put her hand to a variety of duties.

Pauline was an accomplished golfer representing the ladies' section in league matches on numerous occasions, and as far back as the mid-80s played on the mixed foursome open circuit, often finishing in the top three.

She has been very successful in club competitions, winning both the ladies' invitation and David Hughes board competitions.

Pauline has been ladies' captain twice (1988, 2001) and was always willing to listen, resolute but fair in her decision making.

For a number of years, she was the ladies' handicaps and competitions member where her organising attributes came to the fore, ensuring competitions ran smoothly; the

yearly diary was ready for publication; and the ladies' trophies purchased in a timely manner for the annual presentation evening.

Pauline also took on the onerous task of junior organiser responsible for running junior competitions and away days.

She held this important position for more than 12 years, and during this period players such as Craig Sherman, Owen Davies, Steve Thomas, Will Morgan, Craig White and the Punter boys passed through into senior sections.

It is testimony to Pauline's hard work and her teacher's skills that those who are still members at RAF St Athan are good, respectable club members with low handicaps; one being a past club champion and one who is now chairman of play - succession planning to say the least.

A number of years ago, Pauline was involved in a horrific car accident where she suffered very serious injuries to her neck and back.

It was touch and go if she would survive, but despite spending many



ABOVE: Mrs Pauline James has been a member since 1980.

months in a wheelchair, she eventually 'got back on her feet'.

While golf was on the back burner for a long time, she still endeavoured to make a comeback, even though it was never to be the same standard.

Pauline now finds it difficult to play even five holes, but nevertheless continues to support all sections within the club; checking competition score cards for events such as captain's day, the Des Cole Shield, and members and guests, always falls upon Pauline.

Due to this continued support, the work over

the previous 32 years, and the possibility that the club may lose Pauline as a playing member, the directors, committee and members have decided to award the first honorary life membership to a lady member, Mrs Pauline Lewis.

It was unanimously decided that the club is far richer by having Pauline's presence and her smile around!

RAF St Athan Golf Club welcomes new social and playing members. For further information, contact the club manager (01446 751043).

CAROL MORGAN

## Conference wants to re-balance Lottery funds

**FIRST MINISTER** Carwyn Jones will visit Porthcawl tomorrow (Friday, November 23) when the Grand Pavilion hosts a meeting of the Industrial Communities Alliance.

An all-party association which campaigns on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of Wales, England and Scotland, the alliance features 65 local authorities, including 10 from Wales.

Among the issues that the alliance will discuss is a 10-point plan for reviving the British economy, and why so little lottery funding comes to the industrial areas of Britain.

Between 1995 and 2012, Bridgend county borough received an average of £219 of lottery funding per person, while Manchester Central received £5,201 per head, Birmingham Ladywood £4,405 per person and Glasgow Central £3,506 per head.

Overall, Britain's industrial areas only received about 60 per

cent of the British average funding per head.

Delegates will be welcomed by the Mayor of Bridgend county borough, Coun Marlene Thomas, on the Thursday evening before the meeting.

Coun Phillip White, cabinet member for communities at BCBC and a member of the alliance's regional executive, said: "The alliance hasn't had a full meeting in Bridgend county borough for many years and it is a pleasure to host them."

"As well as bringing fresh visitors to the resort, I am particularly pleased that the First Minister will be attending this event."

"It will give a boost to the alliance's work in Wales in promoting the interests of industrial areas such as those once dependent on coal, and those still reliant on manufacturing and heavy industries such as steel."

"As a country, we have become over-dependent on financial services concentrated in the London area, and it is time to re-balance the economy."

## Porthcawl singer to raise funds for charity project



Catherine Walters taking a curtain call after Porthcawl Comprehensive School's production of Les Misérables, where she played Fantine.

Photograph by MALCOLM NUGENT

**A PORTHCAWL** girl has just five weeks to raise £800 to support a project that tackles poverty in Bangladesh.

Catherine Walters, 19, of Nottage, is planning to travel to Bangladesh in January to work on a development programme for three months.

Catherine will team up with Bangladeshi volunteers to tackle some of the problems facing the community, after getting a place on the government-funded International Citizen Service (ICS).

ICS allows young people aged 18-25 to contribute to long-term development projects in countries like Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Nepal.

aims to tackle poverty-related issues such as health and hygiene, access to water, agriculture and education. "This is a unique opportunity to work alongside people from a different culture who have requested help from young volunteers to fight poverty and make a difference where it's needed most."

To sponsor Catherine, visit [justgiving.com/CatherineWalters1](http://justgiving.com/CatherineWalters1). Alternatively, if you would like to offer assistance by donating a venue, prize or service, e-mail: [catherine-walters@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine-walters@hotmail.com).

To find out more about ICS or to apply, visit: [www.ics-uk.org.uk](http://www.ics-uk.org.uk) or call 0208 780 7400.

## Church bazaar in Holton Road

**THE Parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Barry is holding its annual bazaar on Saturday, November 24 at 11am in St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry.**

A spokeswoman said: "This year we have a very special visitor who is flying in from Lapland, so come along and visit Santa in his Grotto. His elves will be with him and there will be a gift for everyone who visits him."

"We have lots of fun games for the children, face painting, and a bran tub. For the adults there are stalls galore with white elephant, bottle, cans, cakes, jewellery, Christmas gifts, toys, and, of course, refreshments."

"The prize draw has a first prize of a £50 Christmas hamper, plus many more prizes. Admission "50p - all children free."

## Barry girl wins apprentice award



Amy Strange receives her award.

**BARRY girl Amy Strange, a third-year aeronautical engineering apprentice with General Electric, has stood out as a committed and highly motivated individual, winning apprentice of the year at Coleg Morgannwg.**

She gained recognition from the company for being the first apprentice ever to achieve all 11 distinctions, was presented with the engineering award from Coleg Morgannwg for highest achiever, had her Welsh Baccalaureate used as an exemplary example for the college, and has now been awarded the highly-coveted EEF Manufacturing Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Second Year Apprentice in Wales for her work last year.

Amy thanked GE Aviation Wales for their continued support and guidance throughout her apprenticeship so far, and expressed her thanks to Coleg Morgannwg, her parents Margaret and Tim, and her partner Charlotte, for motivating and encouraging her along the way.



FoBB volunteers at Watch Tower Bay, The Knapp, with all their cleaning gear.

## 'Beach-clean protects wildlife'

**BARRY-based environmental group Friends of Barry Beaches (FoBB) will be holding its next beach clean on Sunday, November 25 at Porthkerry Beach, meeting adjacent the Forest**

**Cafe at 3pm.**

All volunteers welcome to spend an hour helping to clean the beach, but remember to wrap up warm and wear sturdy boots.

FoBB co-ordinator, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Once again, we need as many eco-volunteers as possible to help clean

Porthkerry Beach. Our volunteers are our real strength, without them we could achieve nothing."

"Helping to clear litter from our beaches is a really positive thing to do and protects our marine mammals and birds."

RC

## Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Ken Shapley - 3 Cosmeston Cottages, Lavernock Road, Penarth - Construction of a small two-bed cottage in plot at rear of 3 Cosmeston Cottages. Presently unused and overgrown at Lavernock Road. The proposed accessed via a private drive having repositioned crossover. Two parking spaces and turning space provided while still retaining three parking spaces and amenity space for existing No. 3.

Mr Matthew Jones - 77 High Street, Cowbridge - Replace rotten sash windows to ground floor front elevation with timber sash windows on a like-for-like basis.

Mr Philip Nedin - 6 Robinswood Close, Penarth - Conversion of existing attached single storey garage.

J V Tree Services - Riversdale,

Causeway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge - 30 per cent reduction of lime tree, removal of two birch trees and reduction of Holm oak and two maple trees.

Mr and Mrs Daniels - 5 Dyffryn Close, St Nicholas, Cardiff - Demolition of existing timber conservatory and replacement with new steel framed, slated roof, PVCu conservatory.

Kingfisher Developments (Wales) - 9 Wine Street, Llantwit Major - Change of use; front ground floor, retained as office. Rear ground floor, one bedroom flat with kitchen and bathroom. First floor, one bedroom flat with kitchen and bathroom.

Mr Gerald Keen - Hendrewennol, Bonvilston - Erection of a timber framed barn for use by customers to purchase fruit and related produce, and refresh-

ments. Ms S Myers and Mr R Law - West Aberthaw Farm, St Athan - Repair and refurbishment works to listed farmhouse; reslating with natural slate replacement rainwater goods, drainage lime mortar pointing, lime wash and render repairs, forming a new storm porch, replacing joinery with traditionally detailed sections, modifying pitch to roof of 1970s East kitchen, internal repairs, regrading ground at rear where existing concrete channel is inadequate to prevent serious issues of dampness. Pointing and refurbishment of chimneys, etc.

Mrs Nicola Richards - Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston - Extension of existing wall at access, with a stone faced low wall with stone piers at approximately 2m centres and a close boarded timber infill fence.



# On a still, quiet day, St Athan pays its own tribute to those who sacrificed their lives

ST ATHAN can be one of the most exposed areas for a Remembrance Sunday event, but this year the air was still and the skies were clear.

A large turn-out of villagers, young and old, were joined by Nicola Gibson, Deputy Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, and representatives of MoD St Athan.



Poppies  
remember  
them



## TALK ON RNLI

**THE Llancafarn Tuesday Club met on Tuesday, November 20 in the village hall, when Vicky Phillips of the RNLI, gave a talk entitled 'Call the Lifeboat'.**

*Non-members are welcome to come to the club's talks.*

## Mike's birds-eye view of Vale!

**ON Thursday, November 1, members of St Nicholas WI met for their monthly meeting.**

The guest speaker was Mike Wilcock, whose illustrated presentation proved, as usual, to be informative, interesting and exciting in many ways.

We saw some amazing sights of Cardiff and the Vale, taken from and during an airship flight.

In the presentation, Mike also included a visual description of his train journey from Glasgow to London with many humorous tales of travel-

ling at 130mph.

The competition, 'A photograph taken in the Vale', was won by Viv Hayes, with Jean Pontin taking second place.

The vote of thanks was given by Wendy Lowe, and the raffle by Marjorie Banks.

The business meeting was chaired by president Ann Bryant. The newsletter was discussed and we were reminded that our next meeting will be the Christmas party, when the hostesses will be the committee. **EE**



APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 28 November 2012



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**HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**  
or apply in writing to:

**Vale of Glamorgan Council**  
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department  
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or  
**Newydd Housing Association**  
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U reference 1097503  
**Suitable for a single person, couple or family**  
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• First floor  
• Gas central heating  
• Double glazing

Rent £75.16 per week including service charge

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• Double glazing

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**AWBERY HOUSE, BARRY**

Preference given to applicants with a proven tenancy history

H4U reference 201288  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets**  
• Two-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs (lift)  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing

Rent £84.03 pw inc water & service charges

**BUTTRILLS WALK, BARRY**

H4U Reference 203121  
**Suitable for a family**  
• Three-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Communal garden

Rent £86.02 pw inc water & service charges

**CAERLEON ROAD, DINAS POWYS**

H4U Reference 268436  
**Preference given to larger families**  
• Five-bedroom house  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £101.02 per week including service charges

**CERI ROAD, RHOOSE**

H4U reference 267165  
**Suit for a single person or couple over 40**  
• Two-bedroom flat  
• Ground floor (steps)  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £80.28 pw inc water & service charges

**COURT ROAD, BARRY**

H4U Reference 205797  
**Suit for a single person**  
• Studio apartment  
• Ground floor  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing

Rent £77.40 pw inc water & service charges

**HATHAWAY PLACE, BARRY (2)**

\* H4U Reference 211623  
**Suitable for a family**  
• (2) Three-bedroom houses  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £100.56 per week including water charges

**IRVING PLACE, BARRY**

H4U reference 213164  
**Suitable for a single person couple or small family - no pets**  
• Two-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing  
• Communal gardens

Rent £80.00 pw inc water & service charges

**LON YR EGLWYS, BARRY**

H4U Reference 250019  
**Suit for a single person or couple over 40**  
• Two-bedroom flat  
• First floor  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £82.09 pw inc water & service charges

**MAIN STREET, BARRY**

H4U Reference 1097478  
**Suitable for a family**  
• Three-bedroom house  
• Gas central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Enclosed rear garden  
• Parking

Rent £85.86 per week including service charges

**NORTH WALK, BARRY**

H4U reference 218255  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets**  
• One-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing  
• Water meter

Rent £74.79 pw including water and service charge

**OAK COURT, PENARTH**

H4U reference 1096124  
**Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical needs)**  
• One-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs (with lift)  
• Walk-in shower  
• Economy 7 heating  
• Managerial alarm

Rent £102.15 per week including service charge

**OGMORE PLACE, BARRY**

H4U Reference 218621  
**Suitable for a family**  
• Two-bedroom house  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £92.33 per week including water charges

**RECTORY ROAD, BARRY**

H4U reference 1041982  
**Suit for a single person or couple - no pets**  
• One-bedroom flat  
• First floor  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing

Rent £75.25 per week including service charge

**REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH**

H4U reference 243339  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets**  
• One-bedroom flat  
• Second floor  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing  
• Warden and alarm

Rent £100.56 per week including water charges

**SHAKESPEARE AVENUE, PENARTH**

H4U Reference 244424  
**Preference given to larger families**  
• Three-bed parlour house  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Gardens

Rent £107.90 per week including service charges

**SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY**

H4U Reference 223670  
**Suit for a single person, couple or small family**  
• Two-bedroom flat  
• Lower ground  
• Central heating  
• Double-glazing  
• Communal garden

Rent £80.24 pw inc water & service charges

**TENSING TERRACE, BARRY**

H4U reference 225909  
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets**  
• One-bedroom flat  
• Upstairs  
• Central heating  
• Double glazing  
• Alarm system

Rent £84.36 pw inc water, service & alarm chg

**FEEDBACK**

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Magellan Close	84	Gold	01/08/12
Philippa Freeth Ct	20	Silver	26/03/12
Poets Field Road	68	Gold	01/03/11
Wellwood Drive		WITHDRAWN	

**Important information for existing and new council tenants**

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. If you are of pension age this change will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

**A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

**A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

**A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit.

**A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property**

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.





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Two bedrooms, front and rear gardens, gas central heating.

Mallory Close, St Athan - £550 pcm  
Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner, enclosed rear garden

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Murlande Way, Rhose - £555 pcm  
Two bedrooms, drive and GCH.

Murlande Way, Rhose - £575 pcm  
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Manor Park, Llantwit Major - £625 pcm  
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Liys Dwywnen, Llantwit Major - £675 pcm

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**MORE GARDEN SERVICES**  
NEXT PAGE

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## Birthdays

### KATE BROWN


**Happy 30th Birthday**  
on 25th November



With lots of love from Gareth and  
all your family (old and new!)  
x x x x x x x x x

### ALAN HOPKIN

**Happy 60th Birthday Today**  
22-11-2012  
Enjoy your day!  
With lots of love  
from Carol xxx



## Anniversaries

### Clifford & Vera TANNER

Congratulations to our precious Mum & Dad,  
Gramma & Grampy on their  
Diamond Anniversary on 29th November.  
We are all so lucky to  
have you both.  
Lots of love from  
all the family  
x x x



## Family Notices

### WILLIAMS Vincent (Vince)

Mary, Alan and family would like to say thank  
you to all the many relatives and friends who  
attended Vince's funeral and for the personal  
flowers, messages of sympathy and donations  
received. We would also like to say a special  
thank you to Anthony and staff at A G Adams  
and particularly to Rev Irfan James for his  
words of comfort and support.

### JONES Elizabeth Valmai (Val)

Formerly of Llanfair TH  
Passed away peacefully at home in her sleep with  
her family. Beloved wife of Dr Owen Llewelyn Jones,  
much loved and adored by sons Geraint, Rhys and  
the late Eryl, adored Nain to Seren and Martha,  
will be sadly missed by all.  
Funeral service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on  
Monday, 26th November at 12 noon followed by  
cremation at Cychurch Crematorium.  
No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired,  
made payable to the British Red Cross and forwarded  
to the British Red Cross, Ground Floor, River House,  
Cardiff CF15 9SS.

### SMALL

15th November 2012, peacefully in hospital,  
Robert aged 75 years, of Hurworth.  
Reunited with his loving wife Maureen, much loved  
and greatly missed dad of Elaine, Tracy and Keld,  
loving brother of Deirdre, wonderful grandad of Iona,  
Mairi and Aiden. Funeral Monday 26th November.  
Would friends please meet at 10.45am for service at  
Darlington Crematorium. Family flowers only please.  
Donations, if so desired, to Darlington Stroke Club.



## Motors For Sale

**ADVERTISE HERE** £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

### 2 New uPVC Double Tilt & Turn Windows

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# Blackmill marks Remembrance Sunday in the sunshine



Words and photos by  
**MICHAEL RIDLEY**



GEM reader Michael Ridley submitted these photographs of the Blackmill Remembrance Sunday service.

He said: "The day went well, the morning was dry and the sun was out. The service was led by Paran Chapel, the minister was Rev Peter Elwood, and the deacons were Mr Bill Griffiths and Mr Brian Harris.

"It was a good turn-out by the local people of Blackmill."



## Carer invites readers GET 'BREATHLESS IN BRIDGEND'

BRIDGEND resident Elin Jones, who cared for her husband during a long period of ill-health, is encouraging people to get 'Breathless in Bridgend' - a joint initiative between ABMU Health Board and the British Lung Foundation Wales.

On November 28, from 1pm-3pm, she will be in attendance at an event in Maesteg Leisure Centre called 'Breathless in Bridgend', where she will be joined by other members of her Breathe Easy group, to let people know of the help and support that is available for the one in five people in Wales affected by lung disease.

In 2008, after already having a diagnosis of chronic breathing problems, her husband, Rheinalt, was diagnosed with Interstitial Pulmonary Fibrosis. The condition, which has no known cause or current treatment, had a profound impact on their day-to-day living, until Rheinalt sadly passed away in March of this year.

Elin used to work as a secretary in St Fagans Museum, and has spent the last few years caring for her husband who became increasingly breathless as a result of his lung condition. In 2009, they started to attend the local Breathe Easy group

together, which is supported by the British Lung Foundation. The group provides valuable social support, as well as providing opportunities to hear from guest health and community speakers about what people can do to improve their quality of life.

Elin Jones said: "The group quickly became very important to us. It was good to meet other people who share the same experiences and everyday difficulties that are faced by people with lung disease. "As a carer, it was useful for me to attend to try and understand what my husband was going through, physically and emotionally."

Elin is still attending the group, which has provided many enjoyable memories and brought her lots of friends.

Now she wants other people to receive the same support and advice as she has.

Elin continued: "I want everyone in the area who has a lung condition to come along to Maesteg Leisure Centre - whether it's asthma, COPD, IPF, or lung cancer - there is support out there for you."

## Festive crafts

ON November 28 at 6.30pm, St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School will be opening its doors to the public for the Christmas fair.

As part of the year-10 students' Welsh Baccalaureate enterprise, they have been busy creating everything crafty for the perfect Christmas. There will be a special visit from Santa with the opportunity to have photos taken with him in the grotto.

## THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

### Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhedredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01165/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Demolition, alteration and extension works to apartment Nos. 1- 3 Llandough Castle Flats
Location:/Lleoliad:	1-3, Llandough Castle Flats, Llandough
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01178/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Replace rotten sash windows to ground floor front elevation with timber sash windows on a like for like basis
Location:/Lleoliad:	77, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01185/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Repair and refurbishment works to listed farmhouse: reslating with natural slate replacement rainwater goods, drainage lime mortar pointing, lime wash and render repairs, forming a new storm porch, replacing joinery with traditionally detailed sections, modifying pitch to roof of 1970s East Kitchen, internal repairs, regrading ground at rear where existing concrete channel is inadequate to prevent serious issues of dampness. Pointing and refurbishment of chimneys etc.
Location:/Lleoliad:	West Aberthaw Farm, St, Athan
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01208/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of a single storey timber framed orangery replacing existing extension and garage.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Swanbridge House, St. Marys Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhedredig	Grade II

### May affect a Public Right of Way / Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2012/01152/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Dwelling house with treatment plant drainage and access, in connection with racing stables
Location:/Lleoliad:	Pant Wilkin Stables, Aberthyn, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 22nd November, 2012

M. Goldsworthy, Operational Manager Development & Building Control, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



# Sixth form pupils compete in football friendly graced by two 'wonder goals'

**COWBRIDGE** sixth form pupils recently took part in a friendly football game that was organised by the pupils themselves.

Mr Thomas and Mr Hopkins were on hand to ensure fair play and keep the large crowd under control during the KS4 lunch hour.

Although the score ended with an emphatic win for the white team, special mention must go to Adam Roscrow for scoring two wonder goals.

Jake Hill Anderson also converted from the halfway line in what must go down as one of the luckiest goals ever witnessed at the 'Theatre of Nightmares'!

Well done to both sets of players and managers for making the game enjoyable and friendly.

**Hockey**  
**THE senior hockey team played their first match of the season against Brynteg after a number of cancellations.**

The team were made up of year-10-13 girls and Brynteg had a similar composition.

In the first half, Rosa Hartman scored a great goal after much of the game being fifty-fifty in possession. In the second half, Brynteg dominated the first 10 minutes; goalkeeper Hannah Lee saving a number of high speed shots.

Ellie Eddy-Williams, Katie Wynne, Eliza Smith, Laura Howells and Laurie Thomas also played well in defence, but Brynteg snatched a goal, making it 1-1.

Izzy Eddy-Williams, Olivia Brown, Rachel Bradshaw, Hannah

Lister-Sims, Rosa Hartman, Evie Williams, and Romy Killick all played well in attack and midfield.

Rosa Hartman took an opportunity and scored another great goal, making the final score 2-1, earning her the 'player of the match' title.

The year-8 and year-9 hockey teams played against a mixed 8/9 St Cyres team. Year-9 played first, and the attack and midfield of Seren Allin, Cerys Bradshaw, Jemma Viney, Genevieve Kirk, Izzy Fisher and Ella Jones did most of the work attacking the goal.

The defence of Sophia Harpin, Megan Duncombe and Molly Price were all moved from defence for the final five minutes of the first half. It was 4-0 at the end of the half, with goals from Cerys, Seren and two from Jemma.

In the second half, the year-8 team played. Sophie Oddy was given player of the match for her excellent contribution in defence, stopping St Cyres entering their attacking area. Hannah Sloan, Robyn Edwards and Selina Radcliffe all played well in attack with Selina scoring two goals. Well done to both teams!

**Netball**  
**THE year-9 and 10 netball teams played Bro Morgannwg away on Tuesday, November 6.**

The year-10s played first and got off to a somewhat shaky start. Basic handling errors enabled the Bro Morgannwg girls to remain in a tight match and the score was level 3-3 at half-time.

In the second half, the Cowbridge girls

regained their composure, worked hard to drive forward for the ball, and cut out the unforced errors.

Excellent defence from Sally Gambling at GK, Rebecca Thomas at GD and Hannah Lister-Sims at WD forced Bro out of the game and enabled the Cowbridge attack to take advantage of the turnovers.

A strong second half resulted in an excellent 11-5 win for Cowbridge. Well done to all the girls!

**Team:** GS – Laura Young; GA – Kim Jerwood; WA – Evie Williams; C – Ellie Eddy-Williams; WD – Hannah Lister-Sims; GD – Rebecca Thomas; GK – Sally Gambling.

The year-9 game got off to an equally slow start, probably due to the cold weather, but Cowbridge soon found their stride and led 5-3 at half-time.

In the second half, outstanding interceptions from Bethan Swallow at GD kept Cowbridge in the game and ensured the ball remained predominantly in the attacking half.

Very accurate shooting from Olivia Jones at GA and Lucy Housley at GS enabled Cowbridge to forge ahead and secure a 12-6 win. Well done to all the girls!

**Team:** GS – Lucy Housley; GA – Olivia Jones; WA – Annie Lloyd; C – Maya Bell; WD – Niamh Jenkins; GD – Bethan Swallow; GK – Emma

**Players of the Match:** year-10 – Hannah Lister-Sims, year-9 – Beth Swallow and Annie Lloyd.

**Rugby**  
**ON Tuesday, November 6, the year-8 rugby team played Plasmawr.**

shot which struck the bar with force and fortunately for Major the ball bounced clear; it was further cleared up-field and played through to leading scorer Nash, in an offside position which was not spotted by the referee; he rounded the keeper and shot but the ball struck the post and out of play.

The Major then took the lead with a fluke of a goal which came from a cross by Rhys Gould, the keeper mis-handled and the ball fell onto the back of a defender and over the line.

Shortly after, the Major won a corner and it was taken long by Tom Rees; he curled the ball in towards the goal and it went over the heads of the defenders and also the outstretched arms of the keeper and into the goal thus fully redeeming himself for his first half miss.

A fortunate result for Llantwit Major AFC, however, a win is a win and 12 points from their last four games takes the Major into third place in the league table.

PL



The senior hockey team were victorious over Brynteg.

Cowbridge were the undefeated champions of the Vale last year, and Plasmawr were the undefeated champions of Cardiff. This made for a hotly contested game, one of huge bragging rights.

The game kicked off, and straight from the start it was apparent that Plasmawr were a team whose calibre we had never come across before. Within five minutes, they had scored their first try, one which could have been avoided. Plasmawr led 5-0.

Cowbridge made their way up into the Plasmawr half, with a number of great runs from Rhyddian Williams, but could not turn this territory into points. The blindside flanker for Plasmawr was stealing ball and gaining a lot of hard yards. After another turnover, Plasmawr spread the ball wide to their danger blindside flanker, who powered over to make the score 12-0.

Cowbridge, who had only conceded two tries in all competitions last year, had conceded this amount in 15 minutes and were shell-shocked.

The end of the first half was very close, with Sam Corkill and Rhyddian Williams putting in some magnificent hits, but try as they might, they could not keep Plasmawr out.

Again, from another turnover ball, Cowbridge's defence was not organised, and Plasmawr threw the ball wide and scored in the corner for a devastating blow before half-time.

The second half was a different story. Cowbridge had learnt their mistakes of over committing to the rucks and not fanning out enough in defence.

Plasmawr were the

first to score in the second half through an unlucky bounce of the ball. It made its way to the winger, who ran up the touchline for an early try.

Cowbridge, unhappy with how the game had progressed, showed their grit and determination, and were looking a much better side.

They were making good ground down the field, with bursting runs from Tom Williams, James Guard, Jack Roberts, Sam and Rhyddian.

With a scrum on the five yard line, Cowbridge were in prime position to get some points on the board. Rhys Durlucia picked up the ball from the No8 position and crashed over.

The score was 24-5, and that is how the game ended.

**Player of the Match:** Rhyddian Williams and Sam Corkill.

On Monday, November 5, the year-7 rugby team played Plasmawr with both schools distinguished for their excellent rugby teams.

Cowbridge started well with a try in the first few minutes. The forwards sucked all the defence in with a couple of bursts around the ruck area.

Noticing this, Ioan Williams and Evan Thomas spread the ball wide for Edward Lewis to run in an easy try from the 22 metre line. The try was excellently converted by Ioan Williams.

Cowbridge were looking like a very good side, turning ball over and gaining ground at will. The second try came from Ruben Williams, who drove his way through a number of tacklers and

dived over the line. Again, the try was excellently converted by Ioan.

The boys did not stop there. Straight from the restart, they began to put together some lovely rugby, changing from strong midfield runs to great hands out to the flanks. Michael Bosley extended the lead with a try in the corner from a well-taken overlap.

The second half was

approaching, but not before Ben Jones picked up a loose ball and flopped over the line for another try. At half-time the score was 31-0 to Cowbridge, and they were putting in a great all-round performance.

A number of changes were made in the second half, and it was brilliant to see all the year-7 boys who turned out (keep it up boys).

Ruben Williams led by example and scored a try that involved a few bits of skill, and a few bits of aggression and strength.

Evan Thomas supplied the conversion. Plasmawr pulled two late tries back, but the game was already won. Well done year-7!

**Player of the match:** Michael Bosley, Barney Langton-Cryer, Barty Norton and Ruban Williams.

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## Lacklustre Llantwit take three points

**FOLLOWING** a good performance at home last weekend, Llantwit Major AFC travelled to the Leckwith Stadium on Saturday to play Cardiff Grange Harlequins.

Unfortunately, on a bright sunny day in Cardiff, it was only the weather that could be praised as it was a lacklustre performance by the Major against lower placed opposition on a well prepared pitch and was a great disappointment to those who had travelled for this Welsh League fixture.

Early chances were squandered by several of the visiting team in the first 30 minutes but the worst of these was when Tom Rees blasted a shot over the bar from 2 yards out.

It was 35 minutes before the Harlequins had a shot at goal and after that first good chance they had a good spell of play either side of half-time creating several good goal scoring chances and keeping the Major pegged in their own half.

The home side had another great





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## Llantwit Major rugby round-up

# It's despair for the firsts but the Druids continue their fine form

**BISHOPS Fields, Llandaff, has not been the happiest of hunting grounds for Llantwit in terms of league wins and, once again, they slumped to defeat, 24-17, after a disastrous first half left them with too much to do.**

Llantwit began well and should have been 10 points up in as many minutes. Scrum half Barry Griffiths followed up a perfectly placed diagonal kick from fly half Chris Fowler and, though he appeared to knock the ball back to the supporting Rhys Balmont who touched down, the referee gave a defending scrum for a knock on.

Soon after, Fowler scuffed a penalty wide and though Llantwit pressured through their pacy backs, too often the last pass did not go to hand or the ball carrier held on a fraction too long.

On the quarter of an hour mark, Llandaff launched their first worthwhile attack and finished off well with a try in the right-hand corner to take a 5-0 lead. Although slightly shell shocked, Llantwit continued to take the game to their hosts, with full back Marcus Pearce putting in a couple of good runs to test the home defence.

A good 10-minute spell saw Llantwit pressure the Llandaff line, with forwards Shaun Shea, Dave Taylor, Carl Watts and Geraint David driving for the try line. Llandaff held out and again caught Llantwit on the counter and, although Pearce got back to save the day, he was forced to concede a scrum five and the Llandaff pack kept it tight to score wide out again, to make it 10-0 with 30 minutes played.

Just when Llantwit supporters thought it could not get worse, they conceded a soft converted try with the final play of the half when a lineout throw on their own line was messed up for the opposition flanker to simply catch and fall over the line.

The second half began in similar vein to the first with Llantwit driving off good quality lineout ball supplied by Sam Booker and skipper Shea but invariably at the ensuing ruck they were penalised and unable to establish any continuity.

Rhys Balmont lifted spirits coming in off his wing to race downfield but Llantwit were then penalised at the ruck in a promising position. Soon after full back Pearce was released on a run down the left touchline and he put in a fine kick and chase only to be denied by the fingertips of the home full-back.

The Llantwit three continued to launch dangerous runs out of their own 22, and earned a good position with a series of lineouts and scrums near the Llandaff line, with flanker Sam Booker stopped inches short and Carl Watts almost forcing his way over, but the big experienced Llandaff pack once again turned over possession.

An overdue yellow card for the home second row gave Llantwit an edge up front and they made it count as Sam Booker took a quick tap near halfway before quick hands by the three released full back Pearce on a run to the corner and he did well to dive over with little room to move in.

This lifted Llantwit, who with a quarter of an hour to go, were now back in the game. A brilliant centre break by Wise Vakacegu saw him tease would be tacklers before giving a n inch perfect pass to Rhys Balmont, who crossed in the corner to make it 17-10.

The next score was going to be crucial and unfor-

tunately for Llantwit it went Llandaff's way as the ball popped out awkwardly from a Llantwit put in at a scrum 30 metres out and the Llandaff scrum half was quick to dribble through and win the race to the touchdown to leave Llantwit trailing 24-10.

To their credit, Llantwit battled on with props Dave Taylor and Neil Woodward driving for the line and replacement flanker Lewis Collins actually forced his way over, only to be denied by a melee of bodies underneath him.

Llantwit deserved some reward for the efforts and fittingly it was the talented Pearce who raced in from the 22 to score a converted try right on the final whistle to earn Llantwit a losing bonus point.

So, another frustrating afternoon for coach Darren Joy, but it could be worse - he could be in charge of Wales!

**Llantwit Major:** M. Pearce, R. Balmont, M. Roberts, W. Vakacegu, J. Austin, C. Fowler, B. Griffiths, D. Taylor, G. David, N. Woodward, D. Daw, S. Shea (captain), D. Synan, S. Booker, C. Watts. **Substitutes:** R. Evans, L. Collins, N. Hoosan.

DG

### DRUIDS TURN UP THE HEAT ON THE REST!

**The Druids began the second half of their league season with an away fixture to Nantfyllon 2nds.**

The match was expected to be an uncompromising test of the Druids League leader's credentials against Nantfyllon, at third in the league, the only other club other than the Druids to have beaten second placed Glycorrwg 2nds.

The Druids loyal band of travelling supporters weren't let down. They started well, dominating territory and forcing several penalties in the first 10 minutes before the referee's patience quickly ran out with Nantfyllon receiving a yellow card for repeated infringements at the ruck.

As is sometimes the case, the yellow card stimulates the receiving team to strengthen their resolve, which rattled the Druids for a while, resulting in a simple penalty being kicked in favour of Nantfyllon.

This was the wake up call the Druids needed. The response was immediate with a try from outside centre Damian Gardner Pontin converted by outside half Dan Powell, following a forwards' rampage up

## Learning all about Arthur!

**LAST week, GEM readers were told all about Arthur Board MFH.**

Arthur began his point-to-pointing career in 1938 when he won the Glamorgan Hunt Farmers Cob Race on his 14.3 mare *Princess* and again in 1939. He still has both trophies.

The war intervened and Arthur was in the Home Guard and *Princess* was used on the farm to gather sheep and cattle. This same little mare funded his honeymoon to London in the Blitz in 1940, through numerous gymkhana wins.

When racing began again in 1948, he rode a good mare called *Lady Airman* at the present Lydstep course in 1948 and despite winning the adjacent hunt race on the five-year-old mare, Austin Bevan objected on the grounds that Arthur had taken his ground and he was disqualified... a claim Arthur is still disputing, 64 years later!

"They cooked it up between them," he said. He had a couple of wins on his brother, Robert Boards *Midantrim* (Christian Williams' great-great grandfather), but time and age have clouded his memory as to exactly when and where.

He rode against Sir Cenydd Traherne and Harry 'Foxhunter' Llewellyn, and in later years, when their racing days were far behind them, Sir Cenydd referred to them as 'The Three Musketeers'.

He rode his last race in 1950 at the Llangeinor Point-to-point at Bryngwyneth on a horse called *Sage Green*, before handing over to his sons Richard and Robert, the latter rode many runners for Dylwyn Thomas.

In his day, Arthur rode to point-to-points if they were near and then hacked home after the race, same with hunting... how things have changed! He exhibited cattle at Smithfield after the war and took them by train from Southerndown Road Station.

BRIAN LEE

field. A further penalty from Dan Powell, and an unconverted try from James Leedham, took the Druids to a fully justified 15-3 lead at the interval.

The talk at halftime was about consolidating the lead. There could be no complacency. The Druids anticipated a tough 20 minutes from a very proud Nantfyllon side which would be make or break for the Druids.

The home side didn't disappoint. Wave after wave of attacks eventually resulted in a deserved try, closing the gap to one score at 15-8.

The Druids were bewildered by some of the refereeing decisions but kept their composure until veteran Les Dixon received a yellow card following a brief encounter with one of the opposition.

The next score would be critical with both sides throwing literally everything at each other in order to try to break the deadlock.

As had been the case in the first half, the yellow card galvanised the recipients and the Druids lifted their game, taking the play into opposition territory.

A penalty from 35 metres out, kicked by the reliable Dan Powell broke the deadlock and took the wind out of the sails of Nantfyllon.

With a two score lead reinstated, the Druids began to dominate again and went further ahead with a try from a great break from Jack Austin whose score under the posts allowed Dan Powell to kick the easy conversion, taking the Druids to 25-8 in the final minutes.

With the Druids back up to 15 men, the game was out of reach of the home side, and their frustration boiled over on a couple of occasions.

The Druids did well to keep their discipline to close the game out for another well earned win at the top of the table.

It's difficult to single any one player out in a team playing so well together but second row Ieuan Rees deserves a special mention for a solid 80-minute man-of-the-match performance that saw Rees make a number of excellent decisions under pressure

resulting in critical drives out of defence.

It's Ponthrhydyfen 2nds away next for the Druids on December 8.

With three away games and two home games expected by the end of January, and great confidence flowing through the team, this is becoming a very special season for the Druids.

**Druids:** 15 James Leedham, 14 Andy McNichol, 13 Damian Gardner Pontin, 12 Jack Austin, 11 Rhys David, 10 Dan Powell, 9 Gareth Burnett, 8 Stephen Howells (captain), 7 David Spargo, 6 Nathan Howells, 5 Les Dixon, 4 Ieuan Rees, 3 Gareth Watts, 2 Mike Myers, 1 Johnny Walker, **Substitutes:** 16 Rhys Ellis, 17 Scott Keeling 18 Bryan Gossell.

BG

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# NEW TOYOTA IS A REAL TONIC IN THESE HARD TIMES

## Motoring with Tim Saunders

**THE Nissan 370Z and Audi TT are dead. Long live the Toyota GT86.**

Producing an unbiased road test on such a fabulous coupe is virtually impossible, because its looks tug at the heart-strings, while its interior and what's under the bonnet make any motorist drool.

It brings back memories of my Nissan 370Z road test a couple of years ago but the GT86 demands considerably more attention.

Any Celica fan is sure to enjoy the GT86, which uses a gutsy 197bhp Subaru boxer engine, the flat four cylinders laid on their sides, allowing it to be mounted lower in the body. This lowers the centre of gravity and improves handling.

Inside, the driver slides into a well-appointed luxury cockpit featuring a sculpted dashboard, heated front seats, sat nav, air conditioning and electric front windows.

An excellent driver's seat hugs in all the right places providing plenty of lumbar support. Occupants look out over a curvaceous bonnet

while a glance in the wing mirrors highlights the aggressive rear haunches, although slightly tamer than a 370Z.

This is a welcome return to proper 'seat of the pants' driving for Toyota. Because the GT86 is so low to the ground drivers have to be reasonably athletic and toned to get in and out without causing embarrassment.

The GT86 is a thoroughly engaging and enjoyable coupe to drive and what's more, there's ample room in the back for passengers.

Its six-speed automatic box has been designed to look like a manual and paddle shifts on the steering wheel allow it to be driven like one.

The auto is also slightly more efficient than its manual counterpart, returning 37mpg during the course of the test.

"The Toyota GT86 is a lightweight, fun-to-drive coupe that the Japanese firm hopes will tempt performance car buyers back to the brand," writes Parkers, the car experts.

"It is aimed squarely at enthusiasts. Critics have been disappointed



ABOVE: The Toyota GT86

recently with the absence of any type of sporty offering from Toyota, the firm foregoing fun in favour of reliable, economical and family-friendly machines.

"Co-developed with Subaru, the recipe looks good on paper. The first thing to note is that this car is rear-wheel-drive, which for purists is the only way to make a sports car. It has relatively thin tyres for a modern performance car too, which further serves to improve the driving experience and make it more exciting at lower speeds."

This roadster is the ideal tonic for recession: it revives low self-esteem. For me, cars have always been a passionate hobby and at a

time when my full time role of PR manager becomes redundant, the GT86 takes my mind off it.

"Anyone going through a similar situation is well advised to step inside the GT86 and floor it. You'll feel so much better, especially when that unmistakable roar sounds from the oversized chrome exhausts.

"At a certain rpm the valves open up and the sound resonates throughout the cabin in a similar way to the Mazda MX-5, as you can tell in the video at testdrives.biz. Book a test drive today!"

As a footnote though, die-hard speed freaks have been disappointed with the GT86 because while it is fast, it doesn't

share the gut wrenching force of a Maserati, for instance. This minority will be pleased to hear that Gazoo Racing has added a supercharger and a turbocharger to the two-litre engine to pump out 315bhp.

So that should do the trick, lads.

Toyota GT86 2.0 (Nav + Leather) 2d Auto.

Model tested: £29,295.

New price range: £24,995 upwards.

Economy: up to 40mpg.

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Top speed: 130mph.

Power: 197bhp.

Fuel capacity: 50 litres.

Watch the video at [www.testdrives.biz](http://www.testdrives.biz).

# Savage lands kite surfing bronze

**Ian Savage in action at the 2012 Inter-Service Kite Surfing Championships.**



**ROYAL Air Force Chief Technician (CT) Ian Savage returns to MOD St Athan as a bronze medal winner following his recent success at the 2012 Inter-Service Kite Surfing Championships.**

Held at Westward Ho! North Devon over a weekend when the crisp autumn weather delivered blue skies and consistent wind, it was the UK's largest kite surfing event of the year.

It was a sight to behold as 50 Kite Surfers from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force descended upon Westward Ho! and spread their myriad of boards and kites across its open beach.

The focus of the Inter-Service Championships was the freestyle discipline with riders having the opportunity to demonstrate their riding agility through aerial tricks involving combi-

nations of rotations, kite loops, handle-passes and board grabs.

During the series of 'knock-out' heats, CT Savage impressed the judges with his consistency in landing tricks and progressed through to the four-man final. However, it was his individual flair and mastery of the wind and waves that saw him gain the overall third place.

A pioneer of kite surfing within the RAF, a modest CT Savage said: "I was delighted to be placed against such strong competition. Kite surfing is relatively new as an inter-service sport but it has grown in popularity and there are some extremely good personnel coming through".

The Inter-Services Champions 2012 were once again won by the Royal Air Force showing their dominance over the waves as well as in the air.

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# GEM sport

## PULVERISED BY PUMAS...CRUSHED BY SAMOANS... Can Gatland lift Black cloud hanging over Welsh rugby?

Pictures  
courtesy  
of Huw  
Evans  
Agency.



Two graphic scenes  
from the mayhem at  
the Millennium:

**LEFT:** felled  
outside half Dan  
Biggar lies injured,  
blood pouring from  
a head wound.

**RIGHT:** Battered  
Welsh players  
trudge dejectedly  
off the pitch. Can  
they recover in  
time to face up to  
the All Blacks?



If there is such a thing as a 'bogey team' in world rugby, bone-crushing Samoans surely rank high on the list of opponents Wales fear most – and with good cause – despite the South Sea Islanders winning only three of the eight meetings before Friday night's clash at the Millennium Stadium.

For two of these just happened to have been 'crunch' games in more ways than one... On October 6, 1991, underdog Western Samoa, as it then was, stunned Cardiff Arms Park into silence with a 16-13 win in Wales' opening game of the Rugby World Cup; and proved it was no fluke three years later with an emphatic 34-9 win in Apia, Wales' only points coming from the boot of current kicking guru Neil Jenkins.

They did it again in RWC 1999, ending Graham Henry's high-flying host nation's 10-game winning streak with a shock 38-31 victory at the newly-opened Millennium Stadium.

History almost repeated itself for a third time in the torrid battle of Hamilton at RWC 2011, when Wales finally scrambled a 17-10 win, thanks to a Shane Williams try and four penalties – after Samoa had led 10-6 at half time.

So the reshuffled team, showing no fewer than eight changes from the Argentine drubbing the previous

### BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

weekend, knew full well to expect an all-out war of attrition in the second game of the autumn series in Cardiff.

The Welsh camp, under caretaker head coach Robert Howley, vowed the players "would not take a backward step" and there would be no repeat of the ineffectual display that saw the team being booed off by some in the crowd at the end, with many others leaving long before the final whistle.

Sadly, that was exactly what happened again on Friday, as the Samoan hitmen took over where Argentina had left off and literally battered the Grand Slam champions to an even more crushing 19-26 defeat.

It left shell-shocked Wales' autumn series in tatters, and supporters fearing the worst is yet to come from the awesome All Blacks this weekend.

Despite the promise that this time Wales would come "tearing out of the blocks", the opening whistle had barely sounded when Samoa were seven points up through a swiftly-taken try and conversion (it could have been 10-0 but for a failed penalty); and Wales were immediately on the back foot, where they stayed for most of the game.

Full back Leigh Halfpenny's reliable boot kept his struggling team in the hunt with two well-struck penalties and after Samoa had missed with another penalty attempt, Wales incredibly took a 13-7 lead against the run of play.

Centre Ashley Beck suddenly broke the siege with an interception deep in his own half and sped away for a try, converted by Halfpenny – but a Samoan penalty just on halftime narrowed the score to 13-10.

Samoa began the second half as they began the first – with a try, but Halfpenny restored a one-point lead with a monster kick from halfway. However, it could

not disguise Wales' inability to cope with the Islanders' power at the set-piece and ferocity at the breakdown, while tactical confusion saw the backs kick precious possession away when attack seemed the far better option.

The pendulum swung back Samoa's way with a penalty, but the lead was then wrested back again by Halfpenny, who made it 19-18, before scrum pressure yielded yet another penalty for Samoa, a late try completing the rout – and their fourth triumph over Wales.

What a shame then that this was soured by unsavoury moments which could, and should, have resulted in red cards.

They involved so-called 'clearing out' at the breakdown – more often a euphemism for tackling an opponent without the ball (which my school games teacher 'Tich' Thomas used to say was illegal!) – but, regrettably, now seems to be accepted as the norm in the modern game.

(Remember prop Adam Jones being cynically 'taken out' at an infamous Lions' test in South Africa, while standing motionless yards away from the ball?)

One unifying incident that could have had grave consequences on Friday, saw replacement hooker Ken Owens being bodily lifted and bent backwards out of a ruck by his neck; while young outside half Dan Biggar fell bloodied victim to a reckless off-the-ball charge, with little attempt made to effect a legitimate tackle.

According to a leading match commentator, it was "a fair tackle, good clearing out"... Really?

Yet another questionable episode saw an offender get away with a swinging arm that felled Halfpenny – all this in full view of the supine match officials.

Incredibly, no one received their marching orders (unlike poor Sam Warburton, summarily dismissed for a far less serious offence in last year's Rugby World Cup).

While everyone freely accepts that rugby is a physical 'contact sport', in the interests of player safety, let alone the game's image projected onto TV screens worldwide, it's time



ABOVE: Samoans celebrate – Welsh fans hope it will not be All Black arms raised in triumph this Saturday.

referees adopted a more consistent approach and rigidly enforced the laws, particularly at the scrum and breakdown before someone gets seriously hurt.

That said, the unpalatable truth is that these two autumn defeats have revealed an alarming decline, not only in this talented Welsh squad's level of performance, but in the very spirit and *hwyf* that produced three electrifying Grand Slams in seven years and won glowing praise around the rugby world.

#### BIGGEST TEST

... And so we move on to the third, and biggest, challenge:

Former Wales head coach Steve Hansen brings the world champions to Cardiff on Saturday – and if the Six Nations title holders found the going tough against Argentina and Samoa, they know they now have to step up to a whole new level when grey clouds turn Black over the Millennium Stadium.

New Zealand have long had what that astute rugby scribe John Billot was wont to call the "Indian sign" on Wales, who have won just three times in 28 attempts since 1905.

That is the scale of the task this young squad face as they prepare to put their battered bodies (and minds) on the line again.

With head coach Warren Gatland thankfully back at the helm from his Lions' duties, albeit briefly, they have another opportunity to restore pride in the red jersey and prove the

Welsh revival has not been derailed. The immediate question is – given the physical and psychological damage done to his demoralised and bemused young troops while he has been away, can Gatland arrest the decline and restore order from chaos, in the all too short time at his disposal?

It's a big ask even for Wales' own Kiwi conjuror, who in truth, has very limited room for manoeuvre.

This showed in the team line-up announced on Tuesday, with its heavy dependence on tried and trusted players who have achieved much for him in the past.

The proud New Zealander is gambling on his loyalty being rewarded and that there will be no further humiliation to come at the hands of his countrymen.

#### WALES TEAM

Leigh Halfpenny; Alex Cuthbert, Jonathan Davies, Jamie Roberts, George North; Rhys Priestland, Mike Phillips; Paul James, Matthew Rees, Aaron Jarvis, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Ryan Jones, Sam Warburton (captain), Toby Faletau.

REPLACEMENTS: Ken Owens, Gethin Jenkins, Scott Andrews, Aaron Shingler, Justin Tipuric, Tavis Knoyle, James Hook, Scott Williams.

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